

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 17: Residential Licensing Section 08: Referral Holds (Residential Licensing)	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 2

POLICY OVERVIEW

Referral holds may be placed to ensure the safety and well-being of children. This may happen if the facility does not follow the rules set by law, contract, or policy.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS may place a referral hold on a residential facility if there is a concern about child safety, a violation of law or code, or a contract issue. The Residential Licensing Unit (RLU) will decide how long the referral hold will last and will notify the facility of the timeframe.

Note: In rare cases, children may be removed from the residential facility if necessary to ensure their safety.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-27-3: Chapter 3. Regulation of Child Caring Institutions](#)
- [IC 31-27-3-29: Investigations of noncompliance; injunctions; corrective action plans; removal of children; informal meetings](#)
- [IC 31-27-5: Chapter 5. Regulation of Group Homes](#)
- [465 IAC 2-11-22: "Private secure facility" defined](#)
- [465 IAC 2-16-13: "Residential treatment services provider" defined](#)