

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 17: Licensing of Child Placing Agencies Section 15: Visits to DCS Licensed Residential Facilities	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 2

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) Residential Licensing Unit (RLU) makes both announced and unannounced on-site visits at licensed residential facilities. These visits help to keep children safe and make sure the facility follows all applicable standards, laws, and rules.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will visit all residential facilities licensed to operate as one (1) of the following:

- Child Care Institution (CCI) under 465 IAC 2-9;
- CCI defined as Emergency Shelter Care under 465 IAC 2-10;
- Private Secure (PS) Care Institution under 465 IAC 2-11;
- Group Home (GH) under 465 IAC 2-12; or
- Emergency Shelter Care (ESC) under 465 IAC 2-13.

DCS will:

- Make announced visits regularly, including during annual reviews (see policy 17.11); and
- Make unannounced visits at least one (1) time each quarter.

Exception: If there are concerns, DCS may visit at least once a month. If the facility is on a referral hold, DCS will visit once a week until the hold is lifted. (see policy 17.08).

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-27-2-5 Monitoring of licensed entities](#)
- [465 IAC 2-9 Children's Homes and Child Caring Institutions](#)
- [465 IAC 2-10 Emergency Shelter Care Children's Homes and Child Caring Institutions](#)
- [465 IAC 2-11 Private Secure Facilities](#)
- [465 IAC 2-12 Children's Homes and Child Caring Institutions Defined as Group Homes](#)
- [465 IAC 2-13 Children's Homes and Child Caring Institutions Defined as Emergency Shelter Care Group Homes](#)