



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration  
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

March 8, 2019

**ALTSA: AFH #2019-005**  
**EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS – REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE**

Dear Adult Family Home Provider:

This letter is to provide you with information and guidance on emergency evacuation drills. There are two types of emergency evacuation drills required under [WAC 388-76-10895](#):

- A partial evacuation is evacuation to the designated emergency egress door. An adult family home must complete this type of evacuation drill at least every two months. Resident participation is optional, but each resident must participate in at least one partial evacuation drill per calendar year.
- A full evacuation is evacuation from the home to the designated safe location. An adult family home must complete this type of evacuation drill at least once per year, with all residents who live in the home at that time participating at the same time and together.

When residents refuse to participate in emergency evacuation drills as required, this poses a conflict between their right to refuse and a home's duty to ensure resident safety. Part of the responsibility to resident safety lies in demonstrating an adult family home's ability to safely evacuate all residents. If a resident refuses to participate either in the full evacuation drill or at least one partial evacuation drill per year, they are not required to do so; however, the home can still demonstrate their ability to safely evacuate all residents by doing the following:

- The resident's wish to refuse to participate must be clearly documented in their negotiated care plan;
- In the resident's negotiated care plan, the home must provide an estimate of the amount of time it would take to evacuate the resident and must show how they came to this estimate;
- The home must add this estimated time to the time recorded on the emergency evacuation drill log after each drill to ensure the length of time to evacuate does not exceed five minutes; and
- The home must continue to offer the resident a chance to participate in every evacuation drill.

A home that has documentation that they have met all of the requirements listed above would be seen as meeting the intent of this regulation with respect to the resident that has refused.

If you have any questions, please contact [Libby Wagner](#), AFH Policy Program Manager, at (253) 234-6061 or your local RCS Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"