



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

February 18, 2026

February 26, 2026

HCLA: AFH #2026-007
HCLA: ALF #2026-008
HCLA: NH #2026-008
HCLA: ESF #2026-007

**Amendments to Chapter 388-76 WAC, Chapter 388-78A WAC, Chapter 388-97 WAC,
Chapter 388-107 WAC- Disaster Preparedness**

Dear Provider/Administrator:

This amended letter is to clarify how this rulemaking impacts facilities. Facilities must take action related to resident rosters and stop placement orders. The rule updates related to gender neutral terms and the definition of "resident representative" in the WAC are for information only.

This message is to announce the filing of a CR-103P (a form used in rulemaking announce the formal adoption of a rule), Rule-making Order (Permanent Rule) amending and adding sections of Chapter 388-76 WAC, Chapter 388-78A WAC, Chapter 388-97 WAC, and Chapter 388-107 WAC.

On November 25, 2025, the department filed the CR-102 (a form to announce, describe, and invite public comment on proposed changes to administrative rules) with the Office of the Code Reviser (WSR [25-24-032](#)) to propose rules for adoption and announce the formal public comment period on the proposed rules. A public hearing on the proposed rules was held January 27, 2026. RCS did not receive any comments during the public comment period. You can find the Concise Explanatory statement [here](#).

The department filed the CR-103P, Rule-making Order (WSR [26-05-046](#)) on February 12, 2026, to announce the adoption of the proposed rules. These rules go into effect on March 15, 2026. These rules implement sections of SHB 1218, chapter 159, Laws of 2021. **The adopted changes: require facilities to:**

- **Require facilities to** create and regularly maintain a resident roster and complete contact information and respond to requests from the long-term care ombuds within specified time frames.
- **Require facilities** to post stop placement orders in a conspicuous place.
- Replace "his or her" with gender-neutral terms **in the WAC**.
- Define **in the WAC** "resident representative" (applied in this rule making to adult family homes, nursing homes, and enhanced services facilities, which do not currently have a statutory definition).

HCLA Provider Letter: **Certification of Memory Care Services Application**

February 26, 2026

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Please contact Colleen Jensen, Policy Program Manager, at 564-999-3182 or rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*