



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

April 16, 2026

HCLA: AFH #2026-014
Proposed Amendments to Chapter 388-76 WAC Adult Family Home Minimum Licensing Requirements

Dear Adult Family Home Provider:

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is proposing amending and repealing sections of Chapter 388-76 Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

The department received a petition to update the chapter to align with federal requirements for long-term care ombuds access to resident records. The department received a petition to change the requirement for adult family homes to conduct partial emergency evacuation drills from every "sixty days" to every "two months". These and other changes will maintain residents' rights and safety, give clarity that will help adult family homes comply with the rules, and remove certain barriers to licensure.

The other proposed changes include:

- Repealing the requirement that the department not issue a license to certain department employees and their household members. (Ethics laws and DSHS rules require employees to report any conflict of interest and outside employment to their employer.)
- Clarifying when an adult family home license must or may be denied to a multiple home provider.
- Removing the requirement that the resident record contains the resident's social security number.
- Adding a requirement to keep the notice of rights and services in the resident record, as required in other sections of the chapter.
- Adding a minimum interior door width requirement.
- Requiring RCS approval of modifications or new construction of resident bedrooms occurring after licensure.
- Clarifying requirements for provider plan of correction.

The rule making will be limited to:

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- 388-76-10037 License requirements—Multiple adult family homes—Additional homes
- 388-76-10045 Licensing—Certain state employees and employee household members—Prohibited
- 388-76-10120 License—Must be denied
- 388-76-10125 License—May be denied
- 388-76-10315 Resident Record-Required
- 388-76-10320 Resident record-Content
- 388-76-10685 Bedrooms
- 388-76-10715 Doors-Ability to open
- 388-76-10895 Emergency evacuation drills—Frequency and participation
- 388-76-10930 Plan of correction (POC)—Required.

Recently the Department filed the CR-102, a more formal phase of the rulemaking process, with the Office of the Code Reviser. Links to the CR-102 ([WSR 26-09-013](#)) document and proposed rule language are available on the department's [website](#).

You may either submit comments at the public hearing listed below or in writing to the Department's Rules and Policies Assistance Unit (RPAU).

The formal hearing for the proposed rules is scheduled:

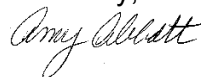
Date/Time: May 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Please see the [DSHS website](#) for more information. You must submit written comments by 5:00PM on May 26, 2026, to DSHS Rules coordinator/RPAU PO Box 45850 Olympia, WA 98504-5850 or by email to DSHSRPAURulesCoodinator@dshs.wa.gov.

For rule-making questions, please contact Colleen Jensen, AFH Policy Program Manager, at RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services
DSHS: "Partnering with People"