


June 1, 2026

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: John Elliott  
Administrator 

Re: Wis. Admin. Code DCF 57 Group Home Revisions

**PURPOSE**

This memo provides information related to revisions pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code ch. DCF 57 Group Homes, effective June 1, 2026.

**BACKGROUND**

Wisconsin Admin. Code ch. DCF 57 was last revised in January 2006. Current revisions focus on:

- adopting best practices and supporting provider service delivery;
- repealing requirements that are no longer considered necessary for the health and safety of children or are overly burdensome to businesses;
- streamlining and clarifying licensing processes including the determination of need, application process, reporting requirements and monitoring; and
- incorporating statutory changes that have occurred since 2006.

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

Group homes operating in Wisconsin are required to follow regulations pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code ch. DCF 57. Wisconsin Admin. Code ch. DCF 57 outlines responsibilities of licensed group homes in providing services to children in their care. All licensees should review the revisions.

A recorded presentation with a synopsis of revised administrative rule pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code s. DCF 57 is available on the [Child Welfare Licensing Section website](#).

All related forms and publications have been revised and published on the [DCF Forms & Publication website](#). The following Child Welfare Licensing Memos have been published to reflect rule revisions:

- [2026-22L: Disaster Plan](#)
- [2026-20L: Wis. Admin. Code s. DCF 57.46 Group Home Determination of Need Process](#)
- [2026-18L: Out of Home Care Extension to Age 21](#)
- [2026-19L: Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standards and Training](#)
- [2026-17L: Resident Rights](#)
- [2026-22L: Serious Incident Reporting Requirements](#)

All related DCF websites have been revised to include updated information pertinent to the revisions pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code ch. DCF 57.

For more information or questions, please contact the following:

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:      Licensing Section  
   Bureau of Permanence and Out-of-Home Care  
   Division of Safety and Permanence  
   [DCFCWLR@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFCWLR@wisconsin.gov)

MEMO WEB SITE:      <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments              [Wis. Admin. Code ch. DCF 57](#)