WAC 388-76-10000 Definitions. "Abandonment" means action or inaction by a person or entity with a duty of care for a vulnerable adult that leaves the vulnerable person without the means or ability to obtain necessary food, clothing, shelter, or health care.

"Abuse" means the intentional, willful, or reckless action or inaction that inflicts injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment of a vulnerable adult.

(1) In instances of abuse of a vulnerable adult who is unable to express or demonstrate physical harm, pain, or mental anguish, the abuse is presumed to cause physical harm, pain, or mental anguish.

(2) Abuse includes sexual abuse, mental abuse, physical abuse, and personal exploitation of a vulnerable adult, and improper use of restraint against a vulnerable adult which have the following meanings:

(a) **"Sexual abuse"** means any form of nonconsensual sexual conduct, including but not limited to, unwanted or inappropriate touching, rape, sodomy, sexual coercion, sexually explicit photographing, and sexual harassment. Sexual abuse also includes any sexual conduct between a staff person, who is not also a resident or client, of a facility or a staff person of a program authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW, and a vulnerable adult living in that facility or receiving service from a program authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW, whether or not consensual.

(b) **"Physical abuse"** means the willful action of inflicting bodily injury or physical mistreatment. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to, striking with or without an object, slapping, pinching, choking, kicking, shoving, or prodding.

(c) **"Mental abuse"** means a willful verbal or nonverbal action that threatens, humiliates, harasses, coerces, intimidates, isolates, unreasonably confines, or punishes a vulnerable adult. Mental abuse may include ridiculing, yelling, or swearing.

(d) **"Personal exploitation"** means an act of forcing, compelling, or exerting undue influence over a vulnerable adult causing the vulnerable adult to act in a way that is inconsistent with relevant past behavior, or causing the vulnerable adult to perform services for the benefit of another.

(e) **"Improper use of restraint"** means the inappropriate use of chemical, physical, or mechanical restraints for convenience or discipline or in a manner that:

(i) Is inconsistent with federal or state licensing or certification requirements for facilities, hospitals, or programs authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW;

(ii) Is not medically authorized; or

(iii) Otherwise constitutes abuse under this section.

"Adult family home" or **"AFH"** means:

(1) A residential home in which a person or an entity is licensed to provide personal care, special care, room, and board to more than one but not more than six adults who are not related by blood, adoption, or marriage to a provider, entity representative, resident manager, or caregiver, who resides in the home. An adult family home may be licensed to provide care to up to eight adults if the home receives approval under WAC 388-76-10031 or 388-76-10032.

(2) As used in this chapter, the term "entity" includes corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies, and the term "adult family home" includes the person or entity that is licensed to operate an adult family home.

"Affiliated with an applicant" means any person listed on the application as a partner, officer, director, resident manager, entity representative, or majority owner of the applying entity, or is the spouse or domestic partner of the applicant.

"Affiliated entity" means any entity owned, controlled, or managed by the applicant or licensed provider, or associated with a parent or subsidiary entity applying for, or holding, an adult family home license.

"Applicant" means:

(1) An individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity seeking a license to operate an adult family home; and

(2) For the following sections only, also includes an entity representative solely for the purposes of fulfilling requirements on behalf of the entity:

(a) WAC 388-76-10020(1);
(b) WAC 388-76-10035(1);
(c) WAC 388-76-10064;
(d) WAC 388-76-10120;
(e) WAC 388-76-10125;
(f) WAC 388-76-10129;
(g) WAC 388-76-10130;
(h) WAC 388-76-10146(4);
(i) WAC 388-76-10265;
(j) WAC 388-76-10500; and
(k) WAC 388-76-10505.

"Capacity" means the maximum number of persons receiving personal or special care who are permitted in an adult family home at a given time. Capacity includes:

(1) The total capacity, which is the number of residents and any children or adults related to the provider who receive personal or special care and services in the home; and

(2) The licensed capacity, which is the number of residents the adult family home may admit and retain (resident capacity), which is the number listed on the license.

"Caregiver" means any person 18 years of age or older responsible for providing direct personal or special care to a resident and who is not the provider, entity representative, a student, or volunteer.

"Chemical restraint" means the administration of any drug to manage a vulnerable adult's behavior in a way that reduces the safety risk to the vulnerable adult or others, has a temporary effect of restricting the vulnerable adult's freedom of movement, and is not standard treatment for the vulnerable adult's medical or psychiatric condition.

"Consent" means express written consent granted after the vulnerable adult or their legal representative has been fully informed of the nature of the services to be offered and that the receipt of services is voluntary.

"Dementia" means a condition documented through the assessment process required by WAC 388-76-10335.

"Department" means the Washington state department of social and health services.

"Department case manager" means the department authorized staff person or designee assigned to negotiate, monitor, and facilitate a care and services plan for residents receiving services paid for by the department.

"Developmental disability" means the same as defined under WAC 388-823-0015.

"Direct supervision" means oversight by a person who has demonstrated competency in the basic training and specialty training if required, or who has been exempted from the basic training requirements and is:

(1) On the premises; and

(2) Quickly and easily available to the caregiver.

"Domestic partners" means two adults who meet the requirements for a valid state registered domestic partnership as established by RCW 26.60.030 and who have been issued a certificate of state registered domestic partnership.

"Entity representative" means the individual designated by an entity provider or entity applicant as its representative for the purposes of fulfilling the training and qualification requirements under this chapter that only an individual can fulfill where an entity cannot. The entity representative is responsible for overseeing the operation of the home. The entity representative does not hold the license on behalf of the entity.

"Essential Support Person" means an individual who is:

(1) At least 18 years of age;

(2) Designated by the resident, or by the resident's representative, if the resident is determined to be incapacitated or otherwise legally incapacitated; and

(3) Necessary for the resident's emotional, mental, or physical well-being during situations that include, but are not limited to:

(a) Circumstances involving compassionate care or end-of-life care;

(b) Circumstances where visitation from a familiar person will assist with important continuity of care or the reduction of confusion and anxiety for residents with cognitive impairments; or

(c) Other circumstances where the presence of an essential support person will prevent or reduce significant emotional distress to the resident.

"Financial exploitation" means the illegal or improper use, control over, or withholding of the property, income, resources, or trust funds of the vulnerable adult by any person or entity for any person's or entity's profit or advantage other than for the vulnerable adult's profit or advantage. Some examples of financial exploitation are given in RCW 74.34.020(7).

"Financial solvency" means that the applicant or provider has sufficient funds to operate the home. An applicant or provider is considered financially solvent when they have no delinquent debt. At the department's discretion, the department may consider an applicant or provider financially solvent if their only delinquent debt is for medical reasons.

"Home" means adult family home.

"Household member" means a person who uses the address of the adult family home as their primary address and who is not a resident.

"Imminent danger" or **"immediate threat"** means serious physical harm to, or death of a resident has occurred, or there is a serious threat to the resident's life, health, or safety.

"Indirect supervision" means oversight by a person who is quickly and easily available to the caregiver, but not necessarily on-site and:

(1) Has demonstrated competency in the basic and specialty training, if required; or

(2) Is exempt from basic training requirements.

"Inspection" means a review by department personnel to determine the health, safety, and well-being of residents, and the adult family home's compliance with this chapter and chapters 70.128, 70.129, 74.34 RCW, and other applicable rules and regulations. The department's review may include an on-site visit.

"Management agreement" means a written, executed agreement between the adult family home and another individual or entity regarding the provision of certain services on behalf of the adult family home.

"Mandated reporter" means an employee of the department or the department of children, youth, and families; law enforcement officer; social worker; professional school personnel; individual provider; an operator of a facility or a certified residential services and supports agency under chapter 71A.12 RCW, an employee of a facility; an employee of a social service, welfare, mental health, adult day health, adult day care, home health, home care, hospice; or certified residential services and supports agency, county coroner or medical examiner; Christian Science practitioner; or health care provider subject to chapter 18.130 RCW. For the purpose of the definition of a mandated reporter, **"Facility"** means a residence licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW (assisted living facilities), chapter 18.51 RCW (nursing homes), chapter 70.128 RCW (adult family homes), chapter 72.36 RCW (soldiers' homes), chapter 71A.20 RCW (residential habilitation centers), or any other facility licensed by the department.

"Mechanical restraint" means any device attached or adjacent to the vulnerable adult's body that they cannot easily remove and restricts freedom of movement or normal access to the vulnerable adult's body. "Mechanical restraint" does not include the use of devices, materials, or equipment that are:

(a) Medically authorized, as required; and

(b) Used in a manner that is consistent with federal or state licensing or certification requirements for facilities, hospitals, or programs authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW.

"Medical device" as used in this chapter, means any piece of medical equipment used to treat a resident's assessed need.

(1) A medical device is not always a restraint and should not be used as a restraint;

(2) Some medical devices have considerable safety risks associated with use; and

(3) Examples of medical devices with known safety risks when used are transfer poles, Posey or lap belts, and side rails.

"Medication administration" means giving resident medications by a person legally authorized to do so, such as a physician, pharmacist, or nurse.

"Medication organizer" means a container with separate compartments for storing oral medications organized in daily doses.

"Mental illness" is defined as an axis I or II diagnosed mental illness as outlined in volume IV of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (a copy is available for review through the home and community living administration).

"Minimal" means violations that result in little or no negative outcome or little or no potential harm for a resident.

"Moderate" means violations that result in negative outcome and actual or potential harm for a resident.

"Multiple home provider" means a provider who is licensed to operate more than one adult family home.

"Neglect" means:

(1) A pattern of conduct or inaction by a person or entity with a duty of care that fails to provide the goods and services that maintain physical or mental health of a vulnerable adult, or that fails to avoid or prevent physical or mental harm or pain to a vulnerable adult; or

(2) An act or omission by a person or entity with a duty of care that demonstrates a serious disregard of consequences of such a magnitude as to constitute a clear and present danger to the vulnerable adult's health, welfare, or safety, including but not limited to, conduct prohibited under RCW 9A.42.100.

"Nurse delegation" means a registered nurse transfers the performance of selected nursing tasks to competent nursing assistants, home care aides, or qualified long-term care workers in selected situations. The registered nurse delegating the task retains the responsibility and accountability for the nursing care of the resident.

"Over-the-counter medication" means any medication that can be purchased without a prescriptive order, including but not limited to, vitamin, mineral, or herbal preparations.

"Permanent restraining order" means a restraining order or order of protection issued either following a hearing, or by stipulation of the parties. A "permanent restraining order" order may be in force for a specific time period (for example, one year), after which it expires.

"Personal care services" means both physical assistance and prompting and supervising the performance of direct personal care tasks as determined by the resident's needs and does not include assistance with tasks performed by a licensed health professional.

"Physical restraint" means application of physical force without the use of any device, for the purpose of restraining the free movement of a vulnerable adult's body. "Physical restraint" does not include briefly holding without undue force a vulnerable adult in order to calm or comfort them, or holding a vulnerable adult's hand to safely escort them from one area to another.

"Placement agency" means an "elder or vulnerable adult referral agency" as defined in chapter 18.330 RCW and means a business or person who receives a fee from or on behalf of a vulnerable adult seeking a referral to care services or supportive housing or who receives a fee from a care services provider or supportive housing provider because of any referral provided to or on behalf of a vulnerable adult.

"Practitioner" means a physician, osteopathic physician, podiatric physician, pharmacist, licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, dentist, and physician assistant licensed in the state of Washington.

"Prescribed medication" means any medication (legend drug, controlled substance, and over-the-counter) that is prescribed by an authorized practitioner.

"Provider" means:

(1) Any individual who is licensed to operate an adult family home and meets the requirements of this chapter;

(2) Any corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other entity that is licensed under this chapter to operate an adult family home and meets the requirements of this chapter; and

(3) For the following sections only, also includes an entity representative solely for the purposes of fulfilling requirements on behalf of the entity:

(a) WAC 388-76-10020(1);

(b) WAC 388-76-10035(1);

(c) WAC 388-76-10064;
(d) WAC 388-76-10120;
(e) WAC 388-76-10125;
(f) WAC 388-76-10129;
(g) WAC 388-76-10130;
(h) WAC 388-76-10146(4);
(i) WAC 388-76-10265;
(j) WAC 388-76-10500; and
(k) WAC 388-76-10505.

"Psychopharmacologic medications" means the class of prescription medications, which includes but is not limited to, antipsychotics, antianxiety medications, and antidepressants, capable of affecting the mind, emotions, and behavior.

"Recurring" or **"repeated"** means that the department has cited the adult family home for a violation of applicable licensing laws or rules and the circumstances of (1) or (2) of this definition are present and if the previous violation in subsection (1) or (2) of this definition was pursuant to a law or rule that has changed at the time of the new violation, a citation to the equivalent current rule or law is sufficient:

(1) The department previously imposed an enforcement remedy for a violation of the same section of law or rule for substantially the same problem following any type of inspection within the preceding 36 months.

(2) The department previously cited a violation under the same section of law or rule for substantially the same problem following any type of inspection on two occasions within the preceding 36 months.

"Resident" means any adult living in the adult family home and who is unrelated to the provider and who receives personal or special care from the adult family home. Except as specified elsewhere in this chapter, for decision-making purposes, the term "resident" includes the resident's surrogate decision maker acting under state law.

"Resident manager" means a person employed or designated by the provider to manage the adult family home and who meets the requirements of this chapter.

"Resident representative" means:

(1) A court-appointed guardian or conservator of a resident, if any;

(2) An individual otherwise authorized by state or federal law to act on behalf of the resident in order to support the resident in decision making; access medical, social, or other personal information of the resident; manage financial matters; or receive notifications including, but not limited to:

(a) Agents under power of attorney;
(b) Representative payees; and
(c) Other fiduciaries; or

(3) If there is no individual who meets the criteria under sections (1) or (2) of this subsection, an individual chosen by the resident to act on behalf of the resident in order to support the resident in decision making; access medical, social, or other personal information of the resident; manage financial matters; or receive notifications.

(4) The term "resident representative" does not include any individual described in section (1) of this subsection who is affiliated with the adult family home where the resident resides, or its licensee

or management company, unless the affiliated individual is a family member of the resident.

"Serious" means violations that either result in one or more negative outcomes and significant actual harm to residents that does not constitute imminent danger, or there is a reasonable predictability of recurring actions, practices, situations, or incidents with potential for causing significant harm to a resident, or both.

"Severity" means the seriousness of a violation as determined by actual or potential negative outcomes for residents and subsequent actual or potential for harm. Outcomes include any negative effect on the resident's physical, mental, or psychosocial well-being (such as safety, quality of life, quality of care).

"Significant change" means:

(1) A lasting change, decline, or improvement in the resident's baseline physical, mental, or psychosocial status;

(2) The change is significant enough so either the current assessment, or negotiated care plan, or both, do not reflect the resident's current status; and

(3) A new assessment may be needed when the resident's condition does not return to baseline within a two week period of time.

"Special care" means care beyond personal care services as defined in this section.

"Staff" means any person who is employed or used by an adult family home, directly or by contract, to provide care and services to any residents.

Staff must meet all the requirements in this chapter and chapter 388-112A WAC.

"Temporary restraining order" means a restraining order or order of protection that expired without a hearing, was dismissed following an initial hearing, or was dismissed by stipulation of the parties before an initial hearing.

"Uncorrected" means the department has cited a violation of WAC or RCW following an inspection and the violation remains uncorrected at the time of a subsequent inspection for the specific purpose of verifying whether such violation has been corrected.

"Unsupervised" means not in the presence of:

(1) Another employee or volunteer from the same business or organization; or

(2) Any relative or guardian of any of the children or individuals with developmental disabilities or vulnerable adults to which the employee, student, or volunteer has access during the course of their employment or involvement with the business or organization.

"Usable floor space" means resident bedroom floor space exclusive of:

(1) Toilet rooms;

(2) Closets;

(3) Lockers;

(4) Wardrobes;

(5) Vestibules; and

(6) The space required for the door to swing if the bedroom door opens into the resident bedroom.

"Vulnerable adult" means a person:

(1) 60 years of age or older who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to care for themselves; or

(2) Subject to a guardianship under RCW 11.130.265 or adult subject to conservatorship under RCW 11.130.360; or

(3) Who has a developmental disability as defined under RCW 71A.10.020; or

(4) Admitted to any facility; or

(5) Receiving services from home health, hospice, or home care agencies licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW; or

(6) Receiving services from an individual provider; or

(7) Who self-directs their own care and receives services from a personal aide under chapter 74.39 RCW.

"Water hazard" means any body of water over 24 inches in depth that can be accessed by a resident, and includes but is not limited to:

(1) In-ground, above-ground, and on-ground pools;

(2) Hot tubs, spas;

(3) Fixed-in-place wading pools;

(4) Decorative water features;

(5) Ponds; or

(6) Natural bodies of water such as streams, lakes, rivers, and oceans.

"Working day" means any day the department is open for business.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.090, 18.51.070, 70.97.230, 70.128.040, chapters 70.129, 74.42, and 74.39 RCW. WSR 26-05-046, s 388-76-10000, filed 2/12/26, effective 3/15/26. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.090, 70.97.230, 70.128.040, chapters 70.129, 74.42, and 74.39 RCW. WSR 25-16-099, s 388-76-10000, filed 8/6/25, effective 9/6/25. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.128.040 and 70.128.066. WSR 23-12-075, § 388-76-10000, filed 6/6/23, effective 8/1/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.128.040 and 70.128.060. WSR 20-05-016, § 388-76-10000, filed 2/6/20, effective 3/8/20. Statutory Authority: Chapters 70.128 and 74.34 RCW. WSR 18-07-068, § 388-76-10000, filed 3/16/18, effective 4/16/18. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.128 RCW. WSR 16-20-095, § 388-76-10000, filed 10/4/16, effective 11/4/16; WSR 16-06-004, § 388-76-10000, filed 2/17/16, effective 4/1/16; WSR 15-03-037, § 388-76-10000, filed 1/12/15, effective 2/12/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.39A.056 and chapters 74.34, 18.20 RCW. WSR 14-14-028, § 388-76-10000, filed 6/24/14, effective 7/25/14. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.128 RCW. WSR 12-01-004, § 388-76-10000, filed 12/7/11, effective 1/7/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.128.040, chapter 74.39A RCW. WSR 10-16-082, § 388-76-10000, filed 7/30/10, effective 1/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.128.040. WSR 10-03-064, § 388-76-10000, filed 1/15/10, effective 2/15/10; WSR 09-03-029, § 388-76-10000, filed 1/12/09, effective 2/12/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.128.040 and chapters 70.128 and 74.34 RCW. WSR 07-21-080, § 388-76-10000, filed 10/16/07, effective 1/1/08.]