



Secured Environment

Presented by
Brad Perry
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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE



Please be advised that the information in this training is not new law. This training provides guidance on the agency's interpretation of existing law. For additional information or to provide input on this document, you may contact the RALF program at RALF@dhw.idaho.gov.



- Understand what a secured unit looks like
- Be familiar with the rules which apply to secured units
- Know who should and who should not reside in a secured unit





IDAPA 16.03.22.250.13 - “If the facility accepts and retains residents who have cognitive impairment and have a history of elopement or attempted elopement, the facility must provide an interior environment and exterior yard that is secure and safe....”



Prior to installation, plans with dimensions and the specification sheets for the proposed locking devices must be submitted to the Division of Licensing and Certification – Fire/Life Safety and Construction Program for approval.



- **Must have a fully secured interior**
- **Has a secured exterior yard where residents cannot leave the yard**
- **No residents can have the code**
- **Residents have cognitive impairment**
- **A fully cognitive resident who lives with a spouse, significant other, relative, etc., who requires a secured unit can get a variance but cannot have the code**





IDAPA 16.03.22.010.29 - “When a resident who is cognitively, physically, mentally, emotionally, or chemically impaired, physically leaves the facility premises or the secured unit or yard without personnel's knowledge.”



- **Must not lock residents in (staff putting in the code for residents is insufficient)**
- **Must not have residents who need a secure environment**
- **Residents who are oriented and can freely come and go, and find their way back home should be in non-secured facilities**
- **Residents who have cognitive impairments but can not leave due to physical abilities, have not attempted to elope, are compatible with the other residents, and do not violate other residents' rights**





- **Wanderguard systems do not meet rule for secured environment, as it does not meet Fire Life Safety requirements for egress**
- **If an assisted living facility decides to change from a secured to a non-secured facility (usually due to a change of ownership), the facility must obtain variances for those residents who do not need a secured unit but wish to stay in the facility. At this time only residents who require a secured environment can be admitted to the secured unit.**
- **Fire life safety must be notified when changing from non-secured to a secured environment**



Questions?