

Responding to an Elopement

IDAPA 16.03.22 states the following about what is an elopement. ***Elopement is when a resident who is unable to make sound decisions physically leaves the facility premises without the facility's knowledge.***

POLICY:

To establish an organized approach to search for a resident who is potentially missing and to ensure that if a resident is found to be missing that the appropriate authorities are notified.

PROCEDURES

Despite your best efforts, elopements may occur. Time is of the essence and therefore you must respond quickly should there be such an occurrence.

1. Any staff member observing a confused or previously identified wandering resident attempting to leave the property shall attempt to re-direct the resident. If re-direction is unsuccessful then a supervisor shall be notified immediately.
2. Upon notification that a resident is missing, supervisor on duty shall conduct a thorough search inside and outside of the building. If a supervisor is not on duty, then available personnel shall conduct the search.
3. Should the search prove unsuccessful, the person in charge shall carry out the following steps.
 - Notify the Administrator
 - Notify the Director of Operations
4. The Administrator shall notify 911 immediately.
 - Be prepared to provide the following identifying information to authorities
 - Full name and nickname
 - Gender
 - Age
 - Photograph from Blue Step
 - Physical description including what they are wearing
5. Once the resident is returned to the home, the following steps will be carried out
 - Family is to be notified
 - Administrator is to be notified
 - Administrator is to notify the Director of Operations
 - The Facility Nurse is to be notified and shall make recommendations in accordance with any concerns
6. The Administrator and or supervisor on duty will develop an immediate plan to prevent further elopement risks until the service plan can be reviewed and adjusted.
7. An Incident Report shall be completed within 24 hours.
8. A report will be made to Licensing and Certification through the FLARES portal.