

135C.36 Violations classified penalties.

Every violation by a health care facility of any provision of this chapter or of the rules adopted pursuant to it shall be classified by the department in accordance with this section. The department shall adopt and may from time to time modify, in accordance with chapter 17A rules setting forth so far as feasible the specific violations included in each classification and stating criteria for the classification of any violation not so listed.

1. A Class I violation is one which presents an imminent danger or a substantial probability of resultant death or physical harm to the residents of the facility in which the violation occurs. A physical condition or one or more practices in a facility may constitute a Class I violation. A Class I violation shall be abated or eliminated immediately unless the department determines that a stated period of time, specified in the citation issued under section 135C.40, is required to correct the violation. A licensee is subject to a penalty of not less than two thousand nor more than ten thousand dollars for each Class I violation for which the licensee's facility is cited.

2. A Class II violation is one which has a direct or immediate relationship to the health, safety or security of residents of a health care facility, but which presents no imminent danger nor substantial probability of death or physical harm to them. A physical condition or one or more practices within a facility, including either physical abuse of any resident or failure to treat any resident with consideration, respect and full recognition of the resident's dignity and individuality, in violation of a specific rule adopted by the department, may constitute a Class II violation. A violation of section 135C.14, subsection 8, or section 135C.31 and rules adopted under those sections shall be at least a Class II violation and may be a Class I violation. A Class II violation shall be corrected within a stated period of time determined by the department and specified in the citation issued under section 135C.40. The stated period of time specified in the citation may subsequently be modified by the department for good cause shown. A licensee is subject to a penalty of not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars for each Class II violation for which the licensee's facility is cited, however the director may waive the penalty if the violation is corrected within the time specified in the citation.

3. A Class III violation is any violation of this chapter or of the rules adopted pursuant to it which violation is not classified in the department's rules nor classifiable under the criteria stated in those rules as a Class I or a Class II violation. A licensee shall not be subject to a penalty for a Class III violation, except as provided by section 135C.40, subsection 1 for failure to correct the violation within a reasonable time specified by the department in the notice of the violation.

[C77, 79, 81, § 135C.36; 81 Acts, ch 60, § 3]

86 Acts, ch 1168, § 1