

135C.1 Definitions.

1. “*Adult day services*” means adult day services as defined in [section 231D.1](#) that are provided in a licensed health care facility.
2. “*Certified volunteer long-term care ombudsman*” means a volunteer long-term care ombudsman certified pursuant to [section 231.45](#).
3. “*Comprehensive preliminary background check*” includes a criminal history check of all states in which the applicant has worked or resided over the seven-year period immediately prior to submitting an application for employment that is conducted by a third-party vendor.
4. “*Department*” means the department of inspections, appeals, and licensing.
5. “*Direction*” means authoritative policy or procedural guidance for the accomplishment of a function or activity.
6. “*Director*” means the director of the department of inspections, appeals, and licensing, or the director’s designee.
7. “*Governmental unit*” means the state, or any county, municipality, or other political subdivision or any department, division, board or other agency of any of the foregoing.
8. “*Health care facility*” or “*facility*” means a residential care facility, a nursing facility, an intermediate care facility for persons with mental illness, or an intermediate care facility for persons with an intellectual disability.
9. “*House physician*” means a physician who has entered into a two-party contract with a health care facility to provide services in that facility.
10. “*Intermediate care facility for persons with an intellectual disability*” means an institution or distinct part of an institution with a primary purpose to provide health or rehabilitative services to three or more individuals, who primarily have an intellectual disability or a related condition and who are not related to the administrator or owner within the third degree of consanguinity, and which meets the requirements of [this chapter](#) and federal standards for intermediate care facilities for persons with an intellectual disability established pursuant to the federal Social Security Act, §1905(c)(d), as codified in 42 U.S.C. §1396d, which are contained in [42 C.F.R. pt. 483, subpt. D, §410 – 480](#).
11. “*Intermediate care facility for persons with mental illness*” means an institution, place, building, or agency designed to provide accommodation, board, and nursing care for a period exceeding twenty-four consecutive hours to three or more individuals, who primarily have mental illness and who are not related to the administrator or owner within the third degree of consanguinity.
12. “*Licensee*” means the holder of a license issued for the operation of a facility, pursuant to [this chapter](#).
13. “*Mental illness*” means a substantial disorder of thought or mood which significantly impairs judgment, behavior, or the capacity to recognize reality or the ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life.
14. “*Nursing care*” means those services which can be provided only under the direction of a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse.
15. “*Nursing facility*” means an institution or a distinct part of an institution housing three or more individuals not related to the administrator or owner within the third degree of consanguinity, which is primarily engaged in providing health-related care and services, including rehabilitative services, but which is not engaged primarily in providing treatment or care for mental illness or an intellectual disability, for a period exceeding twenty-four consecutive hours for individuals who, because of a mental or physical condition, require nursing care and other services in addition to room and board.
16. “*Office of long-term care ombudsman*” means the office of long-term care ombudsman established pursuant to [section 231.42](#).
17. “*Pediatric palliative care patient*” means an individual described by all of the following:
 - a. The individual is under twenty-one years of age.
 - b. The individual has been diagnosed with a chronic, complex, life-threatening illness that is expected to shorten the individual’s life expectancy.
 - c. The individual is not expected to survive past twenty-one years of age.
18. “*Person*” means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association

or joint stock association; and includes trustee, receiver, assignee or other similar representative thereof.

19. “Physician” has the meaning assigned that term by [section 135.1, subsection 4](#).

20. “Record check evaluation system” means the record check evaluation system of the department of health and human services used to perform child and dependent adult abuse record checks and to evaluate criminal history and abuse records.

21. “Rehabilitative services” means services to encourage and assist restoration of optimum mental and physical capabilities of the individual resident of a health care facility.

22. “Residential care facility” means any institution, place, building, or agency providing for a period exceeding twenty-four consecutive hours accommodation, board, personal assistance, and other essential daily living activities to three or more individuals, not related to the administrator or owner thereof within the third degree of consanguinity, who by reason of illness, disease, or physical or mental infirmity are unable to sufficiently or properly care for themselves but who do not require the services of a registered or licensed practical nurse except on an emergency basis or who by reason of illness, disease, or physical or mental infirmity are unable to sufficiently or properly care for themselves but who do not require the services of a registered or licensed practical nurse except on an emergency basis if home and community-based services, other than nursing care, as defined by [this chapter](#) and departmental rule, are provided. For the purposes of this definition, the home and community-based services to be provided are limited to the type included under the medical assistance program provided pursuant to [chapter 249A](#), are subject to cost limitations established by the department of health and human services under the medical assistance program, and except as otherwise provided by the department of inspections, appeals, and licensing with the concurrence of the department of health and human services, are limited in capacity to the number of licensed residential care facilities and the number of licensed residential care facility beds in the state as of December 1, 2003.

23. “Resident” means an individual admitted to a health care facility in the manner prescribed by [section 135C.23](#).

24. “Respite care services” means an organized program of temporary supportive care provided for twenty-four hours or more to a person in order to relieve the usual caregiver of the person from providing continual care to the person.

25. “Social services” means services relating to the psychological and social needs of the individual in adjusting to living in a health care facility, and minimizing stress arising from that circumstance.

26. “State long-term care ombudsman” means the state long-term care ombudsman appointed pursuant to [section 231.42](#).

27. “Supervision” means direct oversight and inspection of the act of accomplishing a function or activity.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §135C.1]

87 Acts, ch 194, §1; 90 Acts, ch 1039, §2 – 5; 94 Acts, ch 1151, §1; 96 Acts, ch 1129, §24; 2001 Acts, ch 64, §2; 2003 Acts, ch 165, §18; 2004 Acts, ch 1085, §1, 11; 2012 Acts, ch 1019, §11; 2013 Acts, ch 18, §5; 2013 Acts, ch 90, §26; 2020 Acts, ch 1029, §4; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §167, 168, 1884; 2025 Acts, ch 117, §2, 5

Referred to in §10A.511, 10A.523, 80.5, 124.501, 135.61, 135.62, 135B.34, 135C.6, 135H.1, 135M.2, 139A.2, 142D.2, 144C.2, 144D.1, 144F.1, 147.136A, 148A.3, 152.1, 152.5A, 231.4, 232.69, 233.1, 235E.1, 237A.5, 237C.1, 249.3, 249A.3, 249A.18A, 249A.21, 249A.30A, 249K.2, 249L.2, 347.14, 347.26, 419.1, 427.1(14)(a), 427.9, 441.21, 514D.5, 692A.114, 692A.115, 715.9, 718C.3, 726.27

NEW subsection 17 and former subsections 17 – 26 renumbered as 18 – 27