

237C.1 Definitions.

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Child*” or “*children*” means an individual or individuals under eighteen years of age.
2. “*Children’s residential facility*” means a private facility designed to serve children who have been voluntarily placed for reasons other than an exclusively recreational activity outside of their home by a parent or legal guardian and who are not under the custody or authority of the department, juvenile court, or another governmental agency, that provides twenty-four-hour care, including food, lodging, supervision, education, or other care on a full-time basis by a person other than a relative or guardian of the child, but does not include an entity providing any of the following:
 - a. Care furnished by an individual who receives the child of a personal friend as an occasional and personal guest in the individual’s home, free of charge and not as a business.
 - b. Care furnished by an individual with whom a child has been placed for lawful adoption, unless that adoption is not completed within two years after placement.
 - c. Child care furnished by a child care facility as defined in [section 237A.1](#).
 - d. Care furnished in a hospital licensed under [chapter 135B](#) or care furnished in a health care facility as defined in [section 135C.1](#).
 - e. Care furnished by a juvenile detention home or juvenile shelter care home approved under [section 232.142](#).
 - f. Care furnished by a child foster care licensee or approved kinship caregiver under [chapter 237](#).
 - g. Care furnished by an institution listed in [section 218.1](#).
 - h. Care furnished by a facility licensed under [chapter 125](#).
 - i. Care furnished by a psychiatric medical institution for children licensed under [chapter 135H](#).
 - j. Care furnished to persons sixteen years of age and older by a residential program to which the department applies accreditation, certification, or standards of review under the provisions of a federally approved medical assistance home and community-based services waiver, or other provision of the medical assistance program.
3. “*Department*” means the department of health and human services.
4. “*Director*” means the director of health and human services.
5. “*Protective locked environment*” means a setting that prevents egress from a building or grounds as a protective measure to ensure safety and security.

[2016 Acts, ch 1114, §1](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §751](#); [2025 Acts, ch 86, §35, 40](#); [2025 Acts, ch 135, §30](#)

Rules adopted by the department of health and human services shall require that the care furnished by an entity under subsection 2, paragraph j, as enacted in [2025 Acts, ch 86, §40](#), shall be provided to persons under eighteen years of age in settings separate from individuals over the age of twenty-one; [2025 Acts, ch 86, §41](#)

Subsection 2, paragraph f amended

Subsection 2, NEW paragraph j

NEW subsection 5