

**Date:** May 8, 2026  
**To:** APD Adult Foster Home providers  
**From:** Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit  
**Subject:** Elopement Prevention

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Eloperments are serious safety incidents that endanger the well-being of individuals living with dementia or who are at risk of elopement. These events are preventable through person-centered care planning and by taking action to address elopement risk factors.

We have received recommendations for elopement prevention from endorsed memory care (MC) facility staff who specialize in caring for residents with dementia. We feel it is important to share the following best practice recommendations for AFH licensees and staff who care for individuals living with dementia or are at risk of wandering.

Elopement occurs most frequently in endorsed memory care facilities but can occur in other settings that serve individuals living with dementia.

- Inform all individuals who enter the AFH to avoid holding the door for people exiting the building, to avoid exiting if there are individuals waiting or pacing near the door, and how to ask for help from a staff member if needed to exit safely.
- Conduct a thorough risk assessment for elopement at resident move-in and when there is a resident change in condition.
- Provide frequent monitoring and additional staff time to support new residents.
- Routinely check that outdoor areas are secure, that gates close and latch properly, and that there are no objects that can be used to climb over a fence or wall.

- Routinely check that building exits are secure, including stairwells, side doors, and garage doors.
- Educate landscapers, contractors, maintenance workers, and outside vendors about the risk of elopement and requirements for maintaining resident safety.
- Ensure all staff members are acquainted with new residents.

In non-MC settings, staff must ensure that elopement risks are assessed and addressed in care plans to maintain the safety and security of AFH residents. Licensees and administrators should regularly assess residents for safety risks and adjust the care plan as needed to improve resident outcomes.