

PROPOSAL
Maryland Register
Issue Date: December 26, 2025
Volume 52 • Issue 26 • Pages 1345-1346
ELF Docket Number: 25-284

Title 10
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Subtitle 07 HOSPITALS

10.07.04 Residential Treatment Centers for Emotionally Disturbed Children and Adolescents

Authority: Health-General Article, 19 301 and 19 360, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[25-284-P]

The Secretary of Health proposes to amend Regulations .02, .04, and .17 under **COMAR 10.07.04 Residential Treatment Centers for Emotionally Disturbed Children and Adolescents**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to revise COMAR 10.07.04 so that it is consistent with Maryland law. This proposed action is being requested because it will address concerns brought forth by the regulated industry (residential treatment centers) and the accrediting organization industry. This change will allow licensed residential treatment centers to have additional, recognized accreditation options of the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and Council on Accreditation (COA) in addition to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Jordan Fisher Blotter, Director, Office of Regulation and Policy Coordination, Maryland Department of Health, 201 West Preston Street, Room 534, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, or call 410-767-0938, or email to mdh.regs@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through January 26, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.02 Definitions.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Terms Defined.

(1) Accreditation organization means a private entity that conducts inspections and surveys of health care facilities based on nationally recognized and developed standards.

[(1)] (2) Accredited residential treatment center means a residential treatment center that is accredited by [the Joint Commission]:

(a) The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations;

(b) The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities; or

(c) The Council on Accreditation.

[(2)] (3) [(9)] (10) (text unchanged)

(11) Nonaccredited residential treatment center means a residential treatment center that is not accredited by:

(a) The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations;

(b) The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities; or

(c) The Council on Accreditation.

[(11)] (12) [(13)] (14) (text unchanged)

.04 Licensing Procedure.

A. Application. Applicants shall conform to the following:

(1) (5) (text unchanged)

(6) License renewal shall be based on accreditation by the Joint Commission, *the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, or the Council on Accreditation.*

(7) (text unchanged)

B. C. (text unchanged)

D. Licenses for Less Than 12 Months for the Operation of Hospitals and Related Institutions. The Secretary may issue a provisional license[,] *to a nonaccredited residential treatment center if:*

(1) *The nonaccredited residential treatment center is pending accreditation by The Joint Commission, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, or the Council on Accreditation; and*

(2) *The provision license is valid for a period not to exceed 12 months.*

.17 Complaint Investigations.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Complaints.

(1) (3) (text unchanged)

(4) When conducting its independent investigation of an accredited residential treatment center, the Department shall use the standards of the [Joint Commission] *accreditation organization that accredits the residential treatment center* and this chapter.

MEENA SESHAMANI, MD, PHD
Secretary of Health