



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Licensing Programs



Who We Are & What We Do

The Division of Licensing Programs (DOLP) protects the safety, health, and well-being of vulnerable children and adults through comprehensive regulatory oversight and provider services in day facilities and residential and assisted living programs.

Licensed programs include:

- » For adults: Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) and Adult Day Centers (ADCs)
- » For child welfare: Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPAs), Children's Residential Facilities (CRFs), Child Caring Institutions (CCIs), and Independent Foster Homes (IFHs)
- » DOLP serves approximately 42,500 Individuals

! DOLP conducts over 1,500 inspections annually across all licensed programs. Staff are responsible for: !

- Reviewing and approving applications and issuing licenses
- Providing training to licensees and their staff
- Conducting mandated and non-mandated inspections of licensed programs
- Issuing violation notices and sanctions
- Investigating and stopping illegal operations through court processes
- Managing automated licensing information systems
- Developing regulations and policies
- Consulting with individual providers, provider groups, and other stakeholders
- Participating in speaking engagements and meeting regularly with external stakeholders

Licensed Programs

► Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs)

DOLP licenses approximately 570 ALFs, which are residential settings that provide or coordinate



personal and health care services, 24-hour supervision, and assistance to four or more adults who are aged, infirm, or who have disabilities. ALFs

that care for four or more adults must be licensed. Capacity in 2024 ranges from 3 to 500 residents, and physical structures vary from residential houses to

large, high-rise complexes. ALF providers may be licensed for two levels of care, Residential Only or Residential and Assisted Living Care.

Residential living care is provided for adults who may have physical or mental impairments and require only minimal assistance with the activities of daily living or medication administration. ALFs that provide residential care only are not required to have a licensed administrator.

Residential and assisted living care is a higher level of service provided for adults who require assistance with at least two activities of daily living or have significant behavior challenges. These ALFs

may also provide care to residents who require only the residential level of care. ALFs that provide



both residential and assisted living care are required to have a licensed administrator.

ALFs may also provide memory care services

in a safe, secure environment for individuals with serious cognitive impairments due to a primary diagnosis of dementia who cannot recognize danger or protect their own safety and welfare. An ALF may be licensed entirely for memory care or for a memory care area in a larger facility.

ALF services are predominately private pay and are not covered by Medicare or health insurance. The monthly median cost is \$6,000. Memory care services increase costs by more than \$1,000 per month.

Some ALFs accept Auxiliary Grant (AG) funds, an income supplement for individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and certain other aged, blind, or individual who have disabilities who reside in ALFs, an approved adult foster care home, or a certified supportive housing setting. Approximately 210 ALF providers accept AG funds and there are limited AG beds available. As of January 2024, AG reimbursement rates are \$2,079-2,391 per month depending on location. AG recipients are allotted a personal needs allowance of \$82 per month.

Nursing homes and adult group homes differ from ALFs and are not licensed by VDSS. Nursing homes are regulated by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and group homes are licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Disability Services (DBHDS).

► **Adult Day Centers (ADCs)**

DOLP licenses more than 70 ADCs, which are non-residential facilities that provide a variety of health, social, and related support services in a protective setting during part of the day to four or more adults who are aged, infirm, or who have disabilities and who reside elsewhere overnight.

Participation in an ADC program is not typically

covered by Medicare or health insurance. Most centers are private pay. The monthly median cost is \$1,800.

DOLP also dually licenses some ADCs with the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).

► **Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPAs)**

DOLP licenses approximately 159 LCPAs, which are individuals or agencies licensed to place children in foster homes,



adoptive homes, or independent living arrangements.

► **Childrens Residential Facilities (CRFs) & Child Caring Institutions (CCIs)**

DOLP licenses approximately 18 CRFs and CCIs. CRFs are facilities, child-caring institutions, or group homes that receive children separated from their parents or guardians for full-time care, maintenance, protection, and guidance, or provide independent living services to young adults between 18 and 21 who are in the process of transitioning out of foster care.

► **Independent Foster Homes (IFHs)**

A licensed independent foster home is a licensed private home in which a child, not related to the



family, is temporarily placed in the home by the child's parents or legal guardian as a member of the household for no longer than 180 days. A child

may stay in the independent foster home over 180 days due to a parental illness, medical recuperation, or military deployment.

DOLP Home Office: 5600 Cox Road, Glen Allen VA 23060

[Regional licensing offices are located across the Commonwealth.](#)