STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE ● P.O. Box 40975 ● Olympia WA 98504-0975

April 17, 2026

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Cameron Norton, Missing and Exploited Youth Program Manager

SUBJECT: CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT *(RCW 34.05.325)*

For rules proposed under notice filed as WSR #25-21-118 on October 20, 2025:

Amended:
- 110-30-0020 Definitions.
- 110-30-0030 Abuse or neglect of children and youth.
- 110-300-0005 Definitions.
- 110-300-0110 Program based staff policies and training.
- 110-300-0425 Initial and nonexpiring licenses-Reporting License modification.
- 110-300-0450 Parent or guardian handbook and related policies.
- 110-300-0475 Duty to protect children and report incidents.
- 110-301-0005 Foundational quality standards for school-age programs.
- 110-301-0110 Program based staff policies and training.
- 110-301-0425 Initial, nonexpiring, dual licenses, and license modification.
- 110-301-0450 Parent or guardian handbook and related policies.
- 110-301-0475 Duty to protect children and report incidents.
- 110-302-0005 Definitions.
- 110-302-0110 Program based staff policies and training.
- 110-302-0425 Initial, nonexpiring, dual licenses, and license modification.
- 110-302-0450 Parent or guardian handbook and related policies.
- 110-302-0475 Duty to protect children and report incidents.

REASON FOR ADOPTION:

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families' Child Welfare Division (CWD) and Licensing Division (LD) are updating the definition of "abuse or neglect" in WAC 110-30-0020 and other related rules to align with the revised definition of "abuse or neglect" in RCW 26.44.020. RCW 26.44.020 now defines "abuse or neglect" to include "sex trafficking" and "severe forms of trafficking in persons," which went into effect on July 1, 2025, per Senate Bill (SB) 6006, and "Female Genital Mutilation" (FGM), per SB 5453, which went into effect on April 20, 2023. The WAC revisions will align with the recent statute changes regarding the definition of abuse or neglect of children and youth which informs how DCYF issues findings in abuse and neglect investigations.

WAC 110-30-0030 has been reorganized and redundancies have been removed to provide additional clarity on the program requirements. The related WACs have been revised by removing inaccurate information to align with the new definition of “abuse or neglect” in RCW 26.44.020.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES MADE SINCE THE RULE WAS PROPOSED: None.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED	THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERED ALL THE COMMENTS. THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS, OR THE REASONS NO ACTIONS WERE TAKEN, FOLLOW
One commenter raised concerns that removing the term “intentional” from WAC 110-30-0030 (3) inadvertently changed the intent of the WAC as it is not just the intentional touching of a child’s sexual or other intimate parts, but also intentionally allowing, permitting, compelling, encouraging, aiding or otherwise causing a child or youth to engage in touching the sexual or other intimate parts of another for the purpose of gratifying the sexual desire of the individual touching the child or youth, or a third party.	Action taken. The department agreed with the commenter’s assessment and added the word “Intentionally” to 110-30-0030 (3)(c).
One commenter raised a concern about the restructuring of WAC 110-30-0030 (6) regarding negligent treatment or maltreatment, stating that in moving the phrase “shows a serious disregard of the consequences to the child and creates a clear and present danger to the child’s health, welfare, or safety” from the preamble to a subsequent paragraph, this could indicate that the department believes that this element is less important than the legislature intended it to be.	Action taken. The department amended this subsection by removing subsection (6) (a-b) in WAC 110-30-0030 (6) to reduce duplicative language.

cc: DCYF Rules Coordinator