 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>220</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Role and Functions of RLSI	Page 1 of 2
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## Purpose

To describe the role and functions of the Residential Licensing and Special Investigations (RLSI) Unit within the Family Services Division.

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## Related Policies & Regulations

Family Services [Policy 50](#): Child Abuse and Neglect Definitions  
Family Services [Policy 51](#): Screening Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect  
Family Services [Policy 52](#): Child Safety Interventions – Investigations and Assessments  
Family Services [Policy 56](#): Substantiating Child Abuse and Neglect  
Family Services [Policy 94](#): Resource Family Care  
Family Services [Policy 221](#): Foster Care Licensing  
Family Services [Policy 222](#): Foster Care Interventions  
Family Services [Policy 231](#): Licensing Child Placing Agencies  
Family Services [Policy 241](#): Residential Treatment Program Licensing and Interventions  
[Regulations for Child-Placing Agencies](#)  
[Regulations for Commissioner-Designated Shelter Programs](#)  
[Regulations for Foster Homes in Vermont](#)  
[Regulations for Residential Treatment Programs](#)

## Introduction

The division has a special responsibility for the care of children and youth in state custody who reside in substitute care. The regulation of facilities that care for these children and youth enhances the quality and safety of care. Likewise, when it is suspected that a child may have been abused or neglected in substitute care a comprehensive response is essential to ensure their safety and the safety of other children and youth in that setting.

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## Policy

### Regulatory Role

Pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 151, 33 V.S.A. § 5304, and Title 15A §2-102, the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) is the agency of government authorized and responsible for the licensing, regulation, and the promulgation of standards governing the following regulated facilities:

- Child Placing Agencies (foster care and adoption);
- Commissioner-Designated Shelter Programs;
- Foster Homes; and
- Residential Treatment Programs.

The Residential Licensing and Special Investigations (RLSI) Unit is the designated licensing authority within the Department for Children and Families, Family Services Division.

### Special Investigations Role

RLSI has primary responsibility within the division for the child safety intervention (CSI) response in facilities regulated by the division as noted above.

In addition to these regulated facilities, RLSI has primary responsibility for child safety intervention (CSI) response in the following situations:

- FSD district approved respite homes when providing formal respite care;
- Foster homes approved by Child Placing Agencies;
- Child care settings providing ongoing and regular child care if the setting is currently, or would otherwise be required to be, licensed or registered by the DCF Child Development Division (CDD);
- Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) approved public or private schools and approved residential schools when the alleged perpetrator meets the definition for 'person responsible for the care of a child' while acting in their role as a staff member;
- Members of the clergy;
- Residential and day camps when the alleged perpetrator meets the definition for 'person responsible for the care of a child' while acting in their role as a staff member; and
- FSD conflict of interest situations at the discretion of the Family Services Management Team (FSMT).

RLSI staff will follow division policy regarding child safety interventions unless modified in policy specific to the regulated facility.