

DATE: [Date]

Behavioral Health Information Notice No: 26-XXX

TO: California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Association of DUI Treatment Programs
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Hospital Association
California Opioid Maintenance Providers
California State Association of Counties
Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations
County Behavioral Health Directors
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
County Drug & Alcohol Administrators

SUBJECT: Reporting Requirements for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Recovery or Treatment Facilities

PURPOSE: To notify SUD recovery or treatment facilities of updates to reporting requirements regarding the death of a resident.

REFERENCE: [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1356 \(Dixon, Chapter 189](#), Statutes of 2025)

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has the sole authority to license, certify, and monitor alcohol or other drug (AOD) recovery or treatment facilities, also known as "SUD recovery or treatment facilities." (Health & Saf. Code, §§ 11834.01, 11834.30.) DHCS is responsible for all activities associated with SUD recovery or treatment facility licensure, compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, and client-related health and safety issues. This includes DHCS review of compliance with Health and Safety Code section 11830.01 when a death occurs at a licensed SUD recovery or treatment facility.

Existing law requires DHCS to address and investigate a resident's death in a timely manner. Existing law requires SUD recovery or treatment facilities to submit a telephonic report to DHCS within one working day of a resident's death and a written report within seven calendar days of a resident's death. The telephonic and written reports of a resident's death shall include all information that is known to the SUD recovery or treatment facility at the time of the reported death. The reports shall include

a description of the event, including the time, location, and nature of the incident; a list of immediate actions that were taken, including persons contacted; and a description of the follow-up action that is planned, including, but not limited to, steps taken to prevent a future death.

AB 1356 expands Health and Safety Code section 11830.01 to require SUD recovery or treatment facilities to report additional information about deaths to DHCS.

POLICY:

AB 1356 states Health and Safety Code section 11830.01 shall be known, and may be cited, as “John’s Law.”

AB 1356 adds the following requirements:

- 1) Within 30 days of a resident’s death, a SUD recovery or treatment facility shall submit to DHCS any relevant information that the SUD recovery or treatment facility did not know at the time of the initial incident.

If, at any time, DHCS determines a SUD recovery or treatment facility failed to submit information relevant to a resident’s death to DHCS within 30 days of the resident’s death, DHCS shall issue the SUD recovery or treatment facility a written notice of deficiency.

- 2) If DHCS identifies any violations of Chapter 7.5 (commencing with section 11834.01) or any regulations adopted under Chapter 7.5 during its investigation of a resident’s death, DHCS will issue a written notice of deficiency to the SUD recovery or treatment facility. In the notice of deficiency, DHCS will specify instructions to address any violations, including, but not limited to, the timeframe to respond to the deficiencies.

SUD recovery or treatment facilities shall provide a corrective action plan or verification of correction to address any violations, including a timeframe to respond to deficiencies. (Health & Saf. Code § 11834.34; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 10545.) This process will continue to be implemented by DHCS and relayed to SUD recovery or treatment facilities via death investigative reports, compliance reviews, and other reporting formats.

More information on DHCS Licensing and Certification reporting and complaint functions may be found on the Licensing and Certification Division [website](#). Questions regarding this Behavioral Health Information Notice should be directed to the Complaints Section via e-mail at SUDComplaints@DHCS.CA.gov.

Sincerely,

Janelle Ito-Orille, Chief
Licensing and Certification Division