



Assisted Living License Resource Manual

POLICY AREA	Dementia License Policies
TITLE OF POLICY	3.13 ALDC Wandering and Elopement
STATUE/RULE REFERENCE (if any)	144G.82 Subd. 3 (3)
EFFECTIVE/REVISED DATE	07/22/2026

POLICY: As an Assisted Living with Dementia Care licensed facility, Atlas Villas Memory Care has systems in place to manage wandering, minimize opportunities for elopement, and procedures in place to implement when a resident is missing or elopes.

PROCEDURE:

1. Systems in place to minimize opportunities for elopement include:
 - a. Secured Doors: all external doors are equipped with a fob entry system that require a key fob to unlock. Only staff members have a designated fob to open the door. External doors are alarmed and will sound in the event they are attempted to be opened without the fob. Doors have a delayed egress lock that sounds an alarm and delay opening for a short period, allowing staff to respond before the door can be opened.
 - b. Secured Outdoor Space: The patio is enclosed with a secure fence high enough to minimize attempts at climbing. The outdoor space includes a security camera to ensure resident safety and provide real-time alerts to staff activity.
 - c. Simple Building Design: The building is a single level, straight layout, making it easy for staff to monitor whereabouts of residents.
 - d. Staff Training: Elopement drills are conducted to prepare staff to respond quickly and effectively to potential elopement incidents. Staff are trained to recognize signs of behavioral expressions with escalation that may precede wandering or elopement.
 - e. Visitor Management: Staff must open the door for any visitors to enter or leave the community which allows staff to monitor the external door to ensure a resident does not leave unattended.
 - f. Resident Monitoring: Each resident has an individualized care plan that includes strategies for preventing elopement based on their specific needs and behaviors, which may include more frequent safety checks.
2. See Policy 2.19 for procedures to follow for missing residents.