

	<p align="center"><b>Department of Human Services Online Directives Information System</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Index: Revised: Next Review:</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>POL1712 4/01/2024 4/01/2026</b></p>
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**SUBJECT: REFUTATIONS**

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of Residential Child Care Licensing (RCCL) to grant licensed providers the opportunity to refute findings and/or citations identified within a final Statement of Deficiencies (survey report) if the refutation is submitted along with a required written Plan of Correction (POC) and prior to the Department’s approval of the written plan of correction. Where a Statement of Deficiencies (survey report) does not include citations requiring a written POC, the refutation must be submitted within 10 business days of receipt of the final Statement of Deficiencies (survey report).

It is the intent of RCCL that this process be conducted in good faith by ensuring that any disputes of findings and/or citations are evaluated objectively by a committee of RCCL staff with no direct involvement in the refuted survey. Acknowledgement of receipt of refutations will be sent to the licensed provider within five business days of receipt. A final response and detailed outcome will be provided to the licensed provider within thirty calendar days of the Acknowledgement Letter.

**A. Authority**

[O.C.G.A. §§ 49-5-8](#)

**B. References**

OIG-RCCU-POC-POL- Plan of Correction

**C. Applicability**

This policy applies to all RCCL staff and licensed Child Welfare Agencies.

**D. Definitions**

1. Child Welfare Agencies: Licensed Child-Caring Institutions (CCI), Child-Placing Agencies (CPA), Outdoor Child Caring Programs (OCCP), Children’s Transition Care Centers (CTCC), and Maternity Homes (MH).
2. Plan of Correction: A written plan submitted to RCCL by the person or persons responsible for the CCI, CPA, OCCP, MH or CTCC. The plan shall identify the existing areas of non-compliance coupled with the proposed procedures, methods and period of time required to correct the areas of noncompliance.
3. Refutation: A provider’s objection to one or more cited deficiencies on the Statement

of Deficiencies. All objections must be included in the Plan of Correction.

### **E. Responsibilities**

1. The RCCL Director is responsible for monitoring requirements for updating this policy.
2. The RCCL Publisher and the Training and Development Supervisor will update this policy according to state requirements.

### **F. History**

Replaces Refutations POL1712, last reviewed on 4/01/2024.

### **G. Evaluation**

The RCCL Director, Program Director and Surveyor Manager will evaluate this policy when:

1. Conducting monthly data analysis of RCCL reports.
2. Conducting annual relicensure inspections and complaint investigations of licensed child welfare agencies.
3. Conducting random monthly quality assurance audits of survey reports.