



Policies and Procedures

Subject: Extenuating Circumstances	
Created: July 2004	Revised: December 2022, Sept 2024
Reviewed and approved by the Residency Program Committee: Dec 2024	Next review date: Dec 2027

In many cases residents ask for exemptions from program/site requirements or policies because of extenuating circumstances. It is impossible to be comprehensive in the definition, but the following principles will help to guide decisions.

Principles:

In order to be considered for exemption from a policy (e.g. requirement for three-month notification for a schedule change or elective request, requirement for two-month notification for an educational leave request, requirement to attend an educational event in person) circumstances should fall into one of the following categories:

- Sudden and unexpected family events (e.g. illness, death).
- Unpredictable requirements for care of children (e.g. the resident is the sole or primary caregiver and other caregiving arrangements have suddenly fallen through).
- Undue personal distress or hardship
- Undue distress or hardship for a close family member.

Examples of situations that would not be considered extenuating:

- Difficulty in housing pets
- Predictable needs of children for care
- Longstanding illness or difficult family situation that has not changed
- Spouse or family member living outside of province (this is not acceptable for change in core clinical learning experience)
- A resident asking to do core clinical learning experiences and/or extra elective time outside of the Atlantic Provinces because they have a spouse who lives outside of the Atlantic Provinces.

Please refer to the Dalhousie University Postgraduate Medical Education Accommodation Policy if required.

Support required:

If the resident requires additional support, they should be encouraged to contact the Office of Resident Affairs:

- NS & PEI based residents: 902 494 3232
- NB based residents: 506 636 6007
- Resident.affairs@dal.ca