

**POLICY**  
**Department of Family Medicine Postgraduate Program**  
**Extenuating Circumstances**

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

Principles

In order to be considered for exemption from a policy (eg. requirement for three month notification for a schedule change or elective request, request for leave) circumstances should fall into one of the following categories:

- Sudden and unexpected family events – (eg. illness, death).
- Unpredictable requirements for care of children (eg. the resident is the sole or primary caregiver and other caregiving arrangements have suddenly fallen through).
- 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.
- A resident asking to do core rotations and/or extra elective time outside of the Atlantic Provinces because they have a spouse who lives outside of the Atlantic Provinces.