



OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

Mark Ritchie

Frequently Asked Questions about Residential Facility Employee Vouching

What is a “residential facility”?

- a transitional housing facility defined in *Minnesota Statutes* 256E.33, subd. 1;
- a supervised living facility licensed by the commissioner of health under *Minnesota Statutes* 144.50, subd. 6;
- a nursing home as defined in *Minnesota Statutes* 144A.01, subd. 5;
- a residence registered with the commissioner of health as a housing with services establishment as defined in *Minnesota Statutes* 144D.01, subd. 4;
- a veterans home operated by the board of directors of the Minnesota Veterans Homes under *Minnesota Statutes* 198;
- a residence licensed by the commissioner of human services to provide a residential program as defined in *Minnesota Statutes* 245A.02, subd. 14;
- a residential facility for persons with a developmental disability licensed by the commissioner of human services under *Minnesota Statutes* 252.28;
- group residential housing as defined in *Minnesota Statutes* 256I.03, subd. 3;
- a shelter for battered women as defined in *Minnesota Statutes* 611A.37, subd. 4; or
- a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter or dwelling designed to provide temporary living accommodations for the homeless.

(*Minnesota Statutes* 201.061, subd. 3 (c))

What is “vouching”?

Vouching is one of the ways that a voter can prove their residence in a precinct, for the purposes of registering to vote on Election Day. Vouching entails having an employee of a residential facility sign a legal oath stating they personally know that the resident resides in the precinct. (If the individual stayed in the facility the night before and intends to remain there, that is sufficient to establish that they reside in the precinct. For more information, please see the statutory definition of “residence” found in *Minnesota Statutes* 200.031.)

What is required of residential facilities?

Minnesota Statutes 201.061, subd. 3, para (b) requires residential facilities to provide a certified list of the names of current employees and the address of the facility to the appropriate county auditor at least 20 days before each election.

What is the deadline for submitting the list of employees?

For the August 12, 2014 primary, the deadline is July 23. For the November 4, 2014 general election, the deadline is October 15.

Is there a specific form that residential facilities need to fill out?

Residential facility operators may fill out the enclosed form (please make multiple copies or download additional forms from our website, if needed). Otherwise, they may submit the list on letterhead with the facility’s name and address, and the submitter’s name and title. Be sure to sign and date it. It should say something similar to “I

certify that the following is a list of employees of this facility who may vouch on Election Day for eligible voters who are residents of this facility, and that this facility meets the definition of “residential facility” contained in *Minnesota Statutes* 200.061, subd. 3, para.(c).”

Do organizations with numerous residential facilities at different addresses need to submit a form for each address?

Yes, if the addresses are in different precincts and/or if employees only work at one of the facilities.

Can an employee be on more than one certified employee list?

Yes, if they are a current employees of more than one residential facility.

Are there other ways for an employee of a residential facility to prove employment?

Yes, employees who can demonstrate that they are employed at a residential facility are allowed to vouch for residents even if their names do not appear on the list submitted at least 20 days before the election. Employees can provide documentation of their employment to election judges in a variety of ways, including by providing an employee ID badge, or by providing a certification of their employment on the facility’s letterhead which is signed and dated by the facility’s manager. (*Minnesota Rules* 8200.5100, subp. 1 (E))

Do employees have to live in the precinct in which they are vouching?

No.

Do employees have to be Minnesota residents?

No.

Do employees have to be eligible to vote, or registered to vote?

No.

Some of the residents of my facility are under guardianship. They can’t vote, can they?

Yes, anyone under guardianship can vote unless a court order specifically revokes that right.

Is there a limit on the number of residents for whom an employee can vouch?

No.