

Updates to the Exemption Framework for Critical Incident Reporting was published in July 2024. The *Critical Incidents: Restricted Practice Exemption Framework* replaces the *Critical Incidents: Restraint Exemption Framework*.

**Q1. What are the conditions under which exemptions from the requirement to report Critical Incidents are provided?**

**A1.** There are specific conditions under which exemptions from the Critical Incidents Policy requirement to report use of Restricted Practice is allowed, outlined in the *Critical Incidents: Restricted Practice Exemption Framework*. The requirements for a restricted practice to be considered for exemption are: 1) High episodic use of restricted practice is required to ensure safety associated with a behavioural escalation cycle, or 2) Frequent use of restricted practice irrespective of the behavioural escalation cycle.

**Q2. As a service provider, how can I apply for an exemption?**

**A2.** Service providers work together with the involved Behavioural Consultant to submit a formal request for exemption using the [Critical Incidents Request for Exemption Form](#). The involved CLBC Integrated Service Manager will review the request and approve or deny the exemption. A request for exemption must be accompanied by either a Safety Plan, or a *Safety Plan: 6-Month Review Form*. Only restricted practices that have been approved under the exemption framework are subject to the exemption. Use of all other restricted practices in the Safety Plan, and those used in the event of an emergency must continue to be reported as a critical incident as per the [Critical Incidents Policy](#).

**Q3. Why does the exemption framework not include restricted practices required for medical purposes?**

**A3.** Restricted practices that are required for medical purposes only as recommended by a regulated health professional (i.e. not required for behavioural purposes) do not need to be reported as critical incidents, therefore the *Critical Incidents Restricted Practice Exemption Framework* does not apply.

**Q4. If my exemption is approved, how long is it for?**

**A4.** Exemptions are valid only for the period identified in the approved exemption request. Critical Incident exemptions require renewal and re-authorization from CLBC **every 6 months** if still required. At the end of the approved review/reporting period service providers and Behavioural Consultants review exemption requests as part of the Safety Plan review process to determine if a renewal request is needed for any expiring exemptions, any exemptions are no longer required, or any new requests for exemption are needed.

**Q5. Does the Exemption Framework apply to all “Restricted Practices”?**

**A5.** No. The exemption framework applies only to restricted practices that meet the exemption framework, and the conditions outlined on the *Critical Incidents: Request for Exemption Form*. Service providers must continue to follow the reporting requirements outlined in the policy for any other restricted practices.

Other Critical Incident reporting related to challenging behaviour is also required, such as incidents related to Aggressive or Unusual Behaviour when the behaviour of concern is beyond what is included in, or effectively addressed by the Behaviour Support Plan and Safety Plan (if applicable), or if the behaviour causes harm to the individual, staff, or others.