

Scope and Severity Decisions

Within ten (10) days of receiving information from the Early Learning Programs, the Scope and Severity Committee will apply the Scope and Severity Screen, which considers the following:

- the specific **nature** and frequency of other such incidents that may indicate a pattern of failure to meet the required criteria over time;
- the details pertaining to the incident, including the age of child(ren) involved, the duration of the incident, the program's relevant written policies and procedures and the actual implementation at the time of the incident(s).
- the program's **response** to the incident(s), including its analysis of the root causes of the incident(s) and subsequent actions (such as personnel actions or implementation of new policies or procedures), and its ongoing plan for follow-up and prevention;
- the status and results of any **investigations** by licensing, regulatory, medical examiner, police or other authorities regarding the incident(s);
- the process and timeframe by which the **notification** of the incident(s) was received by NAEYC; and
- whether the incident is **reasonably attributable** to the program; that is, whether, in light of all the specific facts and circumstances surrounding the incident, it is fair and reasonable to hold the program itself responsible for the violation (as opposed to some circumstance beyond the program's control).

After conducting this review, the Scope and Severity Committee will make one of the following decisions:

Accreditation is Maintained

This decision will be rendered if the Committee determines that:

- the alleged incident did not result in a violation of a required criterion;
- the program demonstrates the capacity to meet all required criteria over time; and/or
- the incident is not reasonably attributable to the program.

Additional Verification is Required

This decision will be rendered if the Committee determines that some question remains as to the program's demonstrated capacity to meet all required criteria over time. Any additional verification will be undertaken at the program's expense.

Accreditation is Revoked

This decision will be rendered if the Committee determines that:

- the severity of the violation warrants revocation; and/or
- the program has repeatedly and consistently not met the required criteria over a period of one year or as evidenced by having had cases previously reviewed by NAEYC or the Scope and Severity Committee