

December 2014

Dear Provider:

Law Requiring the Posting of OCFS Inspection Histories



Social Services Law was amended this past legislative session to require that all child day care programs post and maintain in a prominent place, a notice containing the results of the most recent OCFS inspection history. This new law becomes effective January 1, 2015.

OCFS is required to provide this posting to the program. Beginning in January 2015, OCFS will mail the required posting, as a separate document, in the envelope with its inspection letter. **Do not post the inspection letter** (it may contain confidential information); **post the inspection history report only**. If you have questions, please contact your licensor or registrar.

Important First Aid/CPR Training Information



The OCFS contract with the American Red Cross to provide First Aid/CPR training opportunities to child care providers is ending in mid-November. Despite the fact that OCFS is no longer contracting with the American Red Cross, the Red Cross training in First Aid and CPR will continue to be accepted as meeting the regulatory requirement. The Red Cross will also continue to participate as a training organization affiliated with the Educational Incentive Program (EIP).

The National Safety Council is the new OCFS contracted training provider for First Aid/CPR beginning in December 2014.

Please check the website for more information as it becomes available. In addition, you will be receiving a post card in the mail from The National Safety Council with important updates. The National Safety Council will provide this training at no cost to you starting in December 2014.

Training Opportunities

- An e-learning is being developed from a recent videoconference with Dr. Edward Hallowell, a child and adult psychiatrist, *New York Times* bestselling author, world-renowned speaker and leading authority in the field of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Dr. Hallowell discussed a variety of topics including the history, medical and strength-based models of the disorder. He also introduced hands-on, practical strategies you can use to help a child in your care who has been diagnosed with ADHD. We invite you to view the videoconference posted on the OCFS website. Training credit will NOT be offered for viewing the videoconference, but will be awarded for taking the e-learning course available in 2015. Stay tuned.

- Stay tuned, also, for the new Supervision e-learning coming your way soon. All e-learning course topics can be found at: <http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/elearn.shtm>.

Winter Safety



Winter weather brings a variety of hazards including treacherous driving conditions, extreme cold, and snow accumulation and drifting. The build-up of snow or ice around buildings can interfere with safe passage from a building, as well as compromise the function of mechanical equipment. Some areas to focus on are:

Exits, Pathways and Safe Areas:

Snow and ice should not obstruct any exits from buildings; this includes the pathways from emergency exits to the public way. It should be removed from building steps, the areas around exits, and routes of travel from exits to the meeting place. Keeping the meeting place clear of snow is essential to provide for a safe waiting area when emergency response vehicles arrive. Snow and ice removal should include clearing all areas that are in the site evacuation plan.

Vents, Utilities and Mechanical Equipment:

Keeping vents to mechanical equipment clear of snow and ice accumulation is an additional safety concern. When clearing snow from walkways and meeting places, it is important to consider where the snow will be deposited. Piling snow against buildings can obstruct or damage vents for boilers, furnaces, hot water tanks, and clothes dryers which can cause the appliance to not operate properly or even shut down completely. If the unit operates improperly, it could emit poisonous carbon monoxide gas. Utility equipment such as gas meters and electrical service should also be kept clear and accessible to avoid natural gas seeping back into the building. Gently clear away snow from the meter using a plastic shovel or broom.

Three Frequently Asked Questions



The provider must be the primary caregiver; does this apply just to new programs licensed May 1, 2014 and after?

If a program was in existence prior to May 1, 2014 and had an “on-site” provider, it may continue to operate with an on-site provider replacing this role with qualified on-site providers as needed. No new on-site providers will be approved for existing programs that did not have this role formerly or new child care programs going forward.

Regarding the requirement that the provider must be the primary caregiver: Can someone own multiple day care programs and have multiple providers? For example, can the applicant/owner hire a person to be his/her provider?

Unless grandfathered in (see above question), no new “on-site providers” will be permitted in new programs (new license/registration numbers).

If I open a new program, do I have to be the provider of care?

When the child day care licensee or registrant is an individual, that person must be the provider of care. A provider is the person present at the child care program who has responsibility for the supervision of children and staff, is responsible for daily operations and has administrative authority for the family based program. When the family-based child day care licensee is an entity, such as a corporation, the person named as the provider must be a person with a business interest in the entity. If that provider is ever to be replaced by the corporation, the corporation must file for a new license or registration.

Ebola Virus

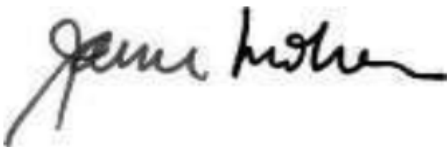
Because of the attention given to this topic by the media and concerns expressed by providers, OCFS has attached a sheet with useful information and answers to day care program questions. Please see attachment.

A Friendly Reminder

- Old forms should not be used. Updated forms can be found on the website at:
<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/documents/docsChildCare.asp>
- Make sure that visitors AND staff are signing in and out of your program each day.

For questions about any items in this letter, please contact your licensor or registrar. Best wishes for good health and company during this holiday season.

Sincerely,



Janice M. Molnar Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services

Si necesita leer esta carta en español, visite el portal de la División de Servicios de Cuidado Infantil en <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/letters.asp>. Si no tiene acceso a la Red o Internet, contacte al encargado de licencias o registros para recibir ayuda.