

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME REGULATIONS

COLLIER COUNTY

Florida law requires that anyone who cares for children in their home from more than one unrelated family, must be either registered or licensed. The State of Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) sets minimum standards for family day care providers. Each county has the option of licensing or registering family day care providers and of setting additional standard beyond the state minimums.

Group Size and Ratios (ONE of the listed groups below):

1. A maximum of four (4) children birth to 12 months of age.
2. A maximum of three (3) children from birth to 12 months of age, and other children, for a maximum total of six (6) children.
3. A maximum of six (6) preschool children if all are older than 12 months of age.
4. A maximum of ten (10) children if no more than five (5) are preschool age and of those five, no more than two (2) are under 12 months of age.

Training:

- ☉ The family day care provider must complete a 30-hour course prior to registration. In the near future all providers must exhibit competency through testing.
- ☉ The family day care provider must complete 10 hours of in-service training annually.
- ☉ Licensed Providers must maintain current certification CPR and first aid.

Other Provider Requirements:

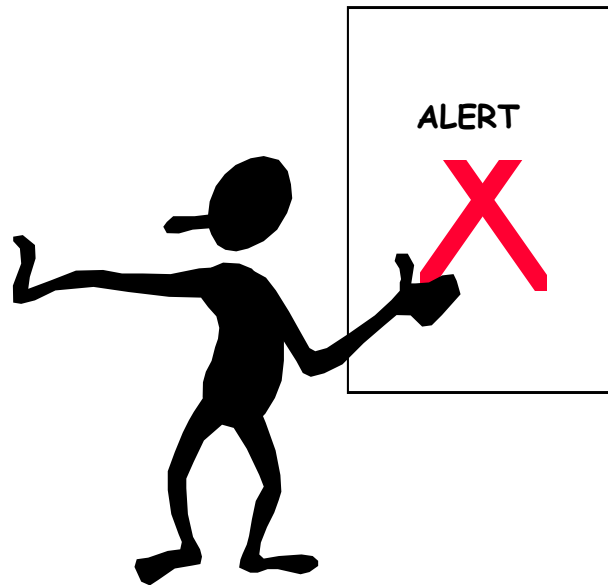
- ☉ The family day care provider, all family members over 18, and any other persons providing substitute care must be screened for good moral character. This screening includes a state and FBI fingerprint check, an annual child abuse registry check; a local law enforcement check and an annual affidavit of good moral character. Children between 12 and 18 years of age residing in the home must be screened for delinquency records.
- ☉ Evidence of freedom from communicable diseases must be submitted.
- ☉ Family day care providers must be 18 years old or older.
- ☉ A written emergency plan must be made, with at least one substitute caregiver available in case of emergency. Substitutes must take a three or thirty hour training course.
- ☉ Family day care providers are required to keep on file immunization and health records of all preschoolers in their care including their own.
- ☉ A current certified fire extinguisher must be accessible in the home.

Monitoring:

- ☉ **Licensed Family Day Care Providers are monitored:** Department of Children and Families conducts unannounced visits to the home twice a year.

☹ **Registered Family Day Care Homes are not monitored.**

Disciplinary Practices:



Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited.

Family Child Care Home Providers must be able to show valid proof of registration or licensure with a certificate from the Department of Children and Families (DCF)

NOTE:

- ☹ **REGISTRATION MEANS NO INSPECTIONS.**
- ☺ **LICENSED REQUIRES INSPECTIONS. MEETS 65C-20 STANDARDS FOR QUALITY AND SAFETY**
- ☺ **PROTECT YOUR CHILD**
 - 1. Interview the Provider**
 - 2. Ask to see the entire house and yard**
 - 3. Check files at the Florida Department of Children & Families, Cross Program Licensing, 338-1341 or 643-9473 or on the web at <http://www.myflorida.com/childcare> (Files can be viewed at the Collier County Office by appointment)**