

New Safety Law in Virginia!

Key Information for Families



In 2015, Governor McAuliffe signed into law “the Child Care Safety Bill,” (HB 1570), to help promote the health and safety of children in child care.

Key Provisions in the New Law

New Child Care Provider Requirements Effective July 1, 2015

- **New!** All unlicensed, unregistered home child care providers are required to provide written notice to parents of every child receiving care (at the time care first begins) stating that the home is not regulated by the Virginia Department of Social Services. Providers will be required to refer parents to a web site for additional information about licensed, registered and unlicensed care.
- The only exemption to the new notice requirement is for providers who are related to all of the children in their care either by blood or marriage.
- **New!** It shall be unlawful for a child care provider to knowingly allow a person to reside in, be employed by, or volunteer in such a home if the individual is required to register on the Sex Offender Registry, has a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect, or has been convicted of certain felonies.
- **New!** Local business licensing offices will be required to report to the Virginia Department of Social Services on a semi-annual basis with regard to any local business license issued for child care purposes.

Child Care Licensing for Home Businesses

Beginning in July 2016, all child care providers who operate a child care business out of their home and who are paid to care for 5 or more unrelated children will be required to obtain a child care license.

- If there are more than 4 children in the home, ask your provider if she has a license.

- Before July 2016, licensing was required when 6 unrelated children were cared for in a home. Therefore, this is a change for providers and as a community we need to work together to make sure that both providers and parents know about the new law.
- Some providers have chosen to become “voluntarily registered” to care for children. Beginning in July 2016, those who are voluntarily registered may care for no more than 4 unrelated children (*i.e., caring for a fifth unrelated child means that the provider will need a license*).



Fingerprint-based Background Checks

Beginning in July 2017, all licensed child care providers (and providers who receive a subsidy to care for a low income child) will be required to have a fingerprint-based background screening.

- No one with a history of violent offenses should be in the business of caring for children.
- The background check screening also applies to volunteers in licensed programs.

Staying Up To Date on Child Care Requirements!

Join Child Care Aware of Virginia’s Education & Action Center for regular updates: click on Take Action from Child Care Aware of Virginia’s home page (<http://va.childcareaware.org/>) or <http://bit.ly/WbLcIF> Looking for child care? Use our checklist! <http://va.childcareaware.org/parentsfamilies/child-care-checklist/>.