



## Family Child Care Homes in Virginia

- ✗ VA does not license child care homes until 5 unrelated children are in care.
- ✗ Most child care homes with 1-4 children are not licensed, which means no background check, no minimum health & safety training, and no inspections. (Local ordinances in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County license or permit small providers).
- ✗ No requirements for safe sleeping practices, fire extinguishers, working smoking detectors, evacuation plans or lists of children care.

### VA Fast Facts

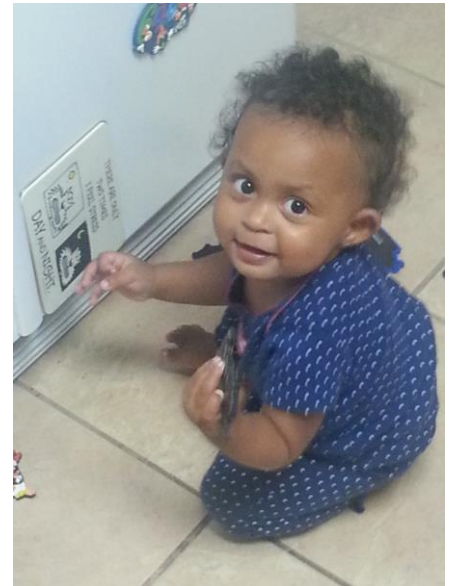
- 402,000 children under age 6 have working parents
- 496,000 children between age 6 & 12 have working parents

<http://va.childcareaware.org/>

## Briele

Briele, was a happy and healthy toddler. When her parents needed child care, they did what most parents do. They asked friends and family for recommendations.

A co-worker recommended a provider who had cared for her child for 5 years. The provider seemed nice. The provider told Briele's parents that she didn't need a license because she only cared for her two children and three others. Her home was in the Landing at Langley Air Force housing complex, so we thought everything was good.



But, then a nightmare happened. Briele was 16 months old. The provider buckled her into a car seat and left her unattended in an upstairs bedroom. She then left the house with her own two children and another child she was caring for. An 8 year old child stayed behind, but was not upstairs.

They went to the veterinarian's office because her dog had an appointment. The police think that Briele woke up in the car seat, tried to get out, and then strangled on the straps. The autopsy lists strangulation as the cause of death.

The provider has been charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder and two felony counts of child neglect. While this unlicensed provider will be put out of business, the charges against her won't fix the law.

### Child Care Aware of Virginia's Policy Recommendations:

- Require all child care providers paid to care for unrelated children on a regular basis, as a business, to obtain a child care license.
- Require minimum health and safety training (including safe sleep practices), annually.
- Require fingerprint-based background checks for child care providers – convicted felons should not be allowed to operate a child care business.
- Adopt the recommendations from the license-exempt task force to promote child safety in license-exempt care (e.g., require registration for license-exempt providers, background checks for staff, CPR certification for at least one adult on site or with the children, and safe sleeping practices for babies).

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