



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 fire extinguishers, working smoking detectors, evacuation plans or lists of children required in unlicensed 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/>

Rick Alan Bodine, Jr.

Rick Alan Bodine, Jr., who his parents called "P'Nut," died in an unlicensed child care home in Loudoun County on September 15, 2011. He was 11 months old.

His provider seemed nice. She advertised that she was state licensed and county registered. But, she was not. No one knows the details about what actually happened on the day of P'Nut's death. What is known is that the provider said he was placed in a pack & play in the living room and she didn't check on him for 2 ½ hours. The cause of death was ruled "undetermined."

Was he really in the living room ignored for 2 ½ hours? Was he placed to sleep on his stomach, which potentially could have led him to suffocate against the plastic pad at the bottom of the crib? Was he placed to sleep in a car seat in an upstairs bedroom where he might have suffocated (a practice the parents had forbidden the provider to do)? And, then when she discovered him several hours later, transferred him to the pack & play? No one knows.

What is known is that no charges were brought against the provider. There was insufficient evidence to make a case. Is the death of a child due to negligence a crime? After P'Nut's death, the family discovered that the provider had a history with drugs and a felony conviction. But, there are no laws to stop convicted felons from offering unlicensed child care in Virginia.



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.
- 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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