

## REGULATIONS FOR CHILDREN’S CENTERS DURING EMERGENCIES

Original date: August, 2006; revised May 7, 2008, August 6, 2008, December, 2018

All licensing regulations will be in effect during emergencies. Only the following regulations have been decreased. Licensees wishing to operate under these self-executing Emergency Regulations would be subject to conditions 1-3 listed below; 4 is an agency operation policy.

1. Emergency Regulations will become effective upon the declaration of a State of Emergency by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapter 252, and will remain in effect for up to 72 hours after the State of Emergency has been rescinded. The Executive Director, or designee, is granted the authority to extend the use of Emergency Regulations as the situation dictates. After Emergency Regulations are rescinded, Licensing Regulations governing children’s centers and family day care homes would again be in effect.
2. After a fire or natural disaster, the children’s center/family day care home or large family day care home provider must notify the Child Care Licensing Program within 24 hours as to their status of operation in order for the Child Care Licensing Program to ensure health standards are met for continued operation as a children’s center/family day care home or large family child care home. Damage to the building or property/home may require approval from the Child Care Licensing Program and in addition may require the Health Department and/or other agencies to inspect and approve the premises.
3. Emergency Regulations represent a variance to Licensing Regulations. A variance is a privilege and not a right; as such, it can be withdrawn at anytime, with or without cause and without the right to appeal. Negative sanctions may also be brought against the licensees’ regular license, if appropriate.
4. The Executive Director is given the authority to approve specific centers or homes to use Emergency Regulations during states of emergency declared by the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough, Pasco, or Manatee pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapter 252, upon a showing that the licensees’ request is based upon the need to care for refugee/evacuee children.

## EMERGENCY REGULATIONS FOR CHILDREN’S CENTERS

LICENSING REGULATIONS GOVERNING PINELLAS COUNTY CHILDREN’S CENTERS	WAIVERS TO REGULATIONS
<p><b>DEFINITIONS</b></p> <p><b>Children's Center</b> - A children's center includes any day nursery, nursery school, kindergarten, or other facility whatsoever which provides child care, with or without compensation. A children’s center provides care for five (5) or more children under thirteen (13) years of age, not related to the operator by blood, marriage, or adoption away from the child's own home for no more than twelve (12) hours per day per child. . .</p> <p><b>School Age Center</b> – A school age center means a children’s center that provides child care for only school age children.....</p> <p><b>Overnight Care</b> - Overnight care means child care provided past 12:00 am and shall not be provided in children’s centers. . .</p>	<p><b>DEFINITIONS</b></p> <p><b>Children's Center</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waive to state level of up to twenty-four (24) hours per day per child.</li> </ul> <p><b>School Age Center</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waive age restrictions to allow infants through school age in all categories of children’s centers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overnight Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waive to state level to allow overnight care.</li> </ul>

**LICENSING REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
PINELLAS COUNTY CHILDREN'S CENTERS**

**WAIVERS TO REGULATIONS**

**I. PERSONNEL**

**B. Education/Credentials**

**1. Education Qualifications**

- a. Day nursery workers (DNW) caring directly for children in any day nursery shall be high school graduates.  
School age center workers (SACW) caring directly for children in any school age center shall be high school graduates.  
All day nursery workers and school age center workers in the adult-child ratio hired on or after January 1, 2006, must fully meet the education requirement. Staff hired prior to January 1, 2006, will have until January 1, 2007, to satisfactorily complete a GED program or be a high school graduate.
- b. The staff member in charge (SMIC) of the staff and program of a day nursery shall have completed a minimum of six (6) semester hours of college credits in early childhood education with passing grades.
- c. The staff member in charge (SMIC) of the staff and program of a school-age center shall have completed a minimum of six (6) semester hours of college credits with passing grades in early childhood education, elementary education, physical education activities for children, guidance, recreation, or the eight content areas listed in the Licensing Regulations I.B.1.f.3.
- d. The nursery school or kindergarten teacher in charge (TIC) of curriculum, staff, and program shall have completed two (2) years of college training including twelve (12) semester credit hours in early childhood education with passing grades and shall have had two (2) years of teaching experience. Teachers (T) working directly under the person in charge of curriculum, staff, and program shall be high school graduates, and in addition shall have completed two (2) years of college training including twelve (12) semester hours credit in early childhood education with passing grades or shall have completed twelve (12) semester hours credit in early childhood education with passing grades and have had two (2) years of teaching experience.
  - (1) Child care staff, not in charge of curriculum, staff, or program who does not meet requirements, may be employed temporarily as a teacher of a licensed, nursery school or kindergarten, if said staff member is in the process of acquiring the necessary educational qualifications. A teacher in the process (TIP) of acquiring the necessary educational qualification must meet the experience requirement and one of the following:
    - (a) A minimum of three semester credit hours or four-quarter hours of college credits each year toward acquiring the necessary twelve semester credit hours or 16-quarter credit hours; or
    - (b) Participation in the Child Development Associate credentialing program; or
    - (c) Participation in the Child Care Apprenticeship Program of Pinellas County.

**I. PERSONNEL**

**B. Education/Credentials**

**1. Education Qualifications**

Waive entire standard.

LICENSING REGULATIONS GOVERNING PINELLAS COUNTY CHILDREN'S CENTERS	WAIVER TO REGULATIONS
<p><b>I. PERSONNEL</b></p> <p><b>B. Education/Credentials</b></p> <p><b>1. Education Qualifications</b></p> <p>f. continued</p> <p>(3) continued</p> <p>(g) Principles of child growth and development</p> <p>(h) Strategies to manage an effective children's program operation</p> <p>(4) In lieu of completion of six (6) semester hours of college credits in the eight content areas, a staff member in charge of a day nursery, school-age center or nonpublic school may satisfactorily complete a CDA credential, a state approved equivalent, or a Florida School-Age Certification. This may be documented on a transcript, diploma, or certificate.</p>	
<p><b>I. PERSONNEL</b></p> <p><b>B. Training Requirements</b></p> <p><b>18. Infant Center Training</b></p> <p>a. Director Training</p> <p>(1) The director shall be required to complete prior to issuance of a temporary permit the approved infant training specifically for directors who plan to provide for infant care.</p> <p>(2) A new director of an existing children's center providing infant care shall be required to complete within ninety (90) days of hire the approved training for infant care. Directors hired prior to October 1, 2005 shall be required to complete the approved training by January 1, 2006.</p> <p>b. Child Care Staff Training Child care staff caring for infants shall complete the approved training for infant care within ninety (90) days of employment; and in addition, annual in-service training of ten (10) hours shall include four (4) hours of training specifically related to infant care.</p>	<p><b>I. PERSONNEL</b></p> <p><b>B. Training Requirements</b></p> <p><b>18. Infant Center Training</b></p> <p>Waive entire standard.</p>
<p><b>II. SUPERVISION</b></p> <p><b>A. General Supervisory Standards</b></p> <p>10. Infants shall not be combined with children over two (2) years of age except that any child two (2) years of age or older who is not toilet trained may be allowed to remain in the infant group.</p> <p>12. Adults shall be engaged in child care exclusively and shall regularly work no more than eight (8) hours in twenty-four hours.</p> <p>13. A staff member qualified to be in charge shall be on the premises at all times when children are present.</p>	<p><b>II. SUPERVISION</b></p> <p><b>A. General Supervisory Standards</b></p> <p>10. Waive entire standard.</p> <p>12. Waive work hours to no more than twelve (12) hours in twenty-four (24) hours.</p> <p>13. Waive entire standard.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LICENSING REGULATIONS GOVERNING PINELLAS COUNTY CHILDREN'S CENTERS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WAIVERS TO REGULATIONS</b></p>
<p><b>II SUPERVISION</b></p> <p><b>B. Adult-Child Ratios</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The staff-to-child ratio ....           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 1 adult for each 3 infants 2 months to 1 year;</li> <li>b. 1 adult for each 5 infants 1 to 2 years;</li> <li>c. 1 adult for each 10 children 2 years old.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>C. Group Size</b></p> <p>In infant programs the maximum group size shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For ages 2 months to 1 year of age-a maximum group size of 6 Infants.</li> <li>2. For ages 1 year to 2 years of age – a maximum group size of 10 Infants.</li> </ol> <hr/> <p><b>V. RECORDS</b></p> <p><b>A. Facility Records</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Children's Health Requirements           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g. No infant shall be admitted to the children's center without first obtaining immunizations appropriate to the age according to standards.</li> </ol> </li> <li>9. A notarized Emergency Medical Release form must be on file for each child in care.</li> </ol>	<p><b>II SUPERVISION</b></p> <p><b>B. Adult-Child Ratios</b></p> <p>Waive entire standard to state ratios of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 1 adult for 4 infants birth to 1 year;</li> <li>b. 1 adult for 6 infants 1 to 2 years;</li> <li>c. 1 adult for each 11 children 2 years old.</li> </ol> <p><b>C. Group Size</b></p> <p>Waive entire standard to no maximum group size</p> <hr/> <p><b>V. RECORDS</b></p> <p><b>A. Facility Records</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Children's Health Requirements.           <p>Waive to state level of obtaining immunizations within 30 days of enrollment.</p> </li> <li>9. Emergency Medical Release.           <p>Waive to delete notarization requirement.</p> </li> </ol>
<p><b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p><b>D. Indoor Play Space</b></p> <p>Indoor play space is required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A children's center that holds a valid license on October 1, 1992, must have a minimum of 25 square feet of usable indoor floor space for each child. . .</li> <li>10. For infants, there must be a minimum of 35 square feet per child of suitable and usable space, which includes open play space. Applications received after January 1, 1993 for programs serving infants under one year of age must meet the requirement of a minimum of 50 square feet per child of suitable and usable space, which includes open play space. All infant rooms shall include a diapering area with hand-washing facilities with hot (temperature not to exceed 110 ° F.) and cold running water.</li> </ol>	<p><b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p><b>D. Indoor Play Space</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Waive to state level of a minimum of 20 square feet of usable floor space.</li> <li>10. Waive 50 square feet to 35 square feet per child of suitable and usable space.           <p>Waive to delete hot water requirement.</p> </li> </ol>

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<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>E. Outdoor Play Space</b> 8. A separate fenced play area shall be provided for infants under two (2) years of age.	<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>E. Outdoor Play Space</b> 8. Waive entire standard.
<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>F. Napping Space</b> 4. Cots and/or cribs shall be set up so that each child is no closer to another, during the nap period, than two-feet. . .	<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>F. Napping Space</b> 4. Waive to state level of 18 inches around individual napping space.
<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>G. Bathroom Facilities</b> 2. For children's centers, having one (1) to thirty-six (36) children, there shall be a minimum of two (2) toilets and two (2) wash basins. There shall be a minimum of one (1) toilet and one (1) wash basin for every eighteen (18) children thereafter.	<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>G. Bathroom Facilities</b> 2. Waive to state level of one (1) sink/washbasin for one to fifteen (15) children; 1 additional sink/washbasin for every thirty (30) thereafter.
<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>G. Bathroom Facilities</b> 6. For school-age centers, having one (1) to thirty (30) children, there shall be a minimum of two (2) toilets and two (2) wash basins. There shall be one (1) toilet and one (1) wash basin for every thirty (30) children thereafter.	<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>G. Bathroom Facilities</b> 6. Waive to state level of one (1) sink/washbasin for the first fifteen (15) children; 1 additional sink/washbasin for every thirty (30) thereafter.
<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>I. Indoor Equipment</b> 4. Shelves shall be provided for equipment and supplies in rooms used by children. . . 5. Tables and chairs suitable in size and sufficient for the total number of children and for the age group under care must be provided and maintained. 6. For preschool children, adequate and appropriate equipment and materials shall include but are not limited to: a. Dramatic play materials: toy housekeeping furniture, supplies, and props. b. Construction play materials: fluid and structured, unit blocks, water play, sand play, and other mediums. c. Art, music, and creative expression materials: easels, paints, brushes, paper, scissors, crayons, markers, clay/play dough, rhythm instruments, and a source of music, such as a tape or CD player	<b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>I. Indoor Equipment</b> 4. Waive to allow for shelving alternative. 5. Waive to delete "sufficient for the total number of children". 6. a. - g. Waive to delete equipment and materials for specific areas.

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<p>d. Early literacy and language materials: books, puppets, flannel boards, and writing supplies.</p> <p>e. Science and math games and materials: magnifying glasses, magnets, measuring equipment, textured objects, geometric shapes, and supplies for counting, matching, sorting, patterning and sequencing.</p> <p>f. Gross and fine motor development: balls, climbing and balancing equipment, puzzles, and other manipulatives.</p>	
<p><b>VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p><b>I. Indoor Equipment</b></p> <p>6. continued</p> <p>g. Other materials that will enhance the child's development.</p> <p>For programs using nationally recognized early childhood educational theory, such as Montessori programs, equivalent equipment and materials may be used. Equivalences must be approved by the License Board for adequacy and appropriateness.</p> <p>...</p> <p>13. a. A cloth sheet which can be fastened to the cot is required as the "washable cover" for cots. . .</p> <p>b. Each child in care must be provided safe and sanitary bedding to be used when napping. Bedding means a cot or crib. . .</p> <p>14. Infants up to one (1) year of age must sleep in individually assigned cribs or portacribs. . .</p>	<p>13. a. Waive to delete the fastenings for cloth sheet.</p> <p>b. Waive to state level to include floor mats at least one (1) inch thick and covered with an impermeable surface for resting/napping.</p> <p>14. Waive to state level to include play pens for resting/napping.</p>
<p><b>VII. HEALTH, SAFETY AND SANITATION</b></p> <p><b>A. General Requirements</b></p> <p>16. Clean, sanitary drinking water must be readily available in indoor and outdoor areas, throughout the day.</p>	<p><b>VII. HEALTH, SAFETY AND SANITATION</b></p> <p>16. Bottled water may be used.</p>