

Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers & Family Child Care Homes

Our mission is to protect and promote the health, safety, and mental development of children cared for in children's centers and family child care homes in Pinellas County

Faith Bornoff, M.Ed., Executive Director
Michael G. Mikurak, Chairperson



MEMORANDUM

To: Children's Centers Owners/Directors

From: Faith Bornoff, Executive Director
Jorie Massarsky, Children's Center Supervisor

Date: March 31, 2021

Subject: **Public Hearing to Address Increases/Additions to Minimum Standards for Children's Centers**

Public Hearing to Address Increases/Additions in Minimum Standards

The Pinellas County License Board, at their regular meeting of March 24, 2021, approved for public hearing increases/additions to minimum standards in *Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Children's Centers*.

A public hearing **WHICH BEGINS AT 1:30 P.M.** will be held for the Board to receive public comments, if any, on the proposed increases/additions.

Wednesday June 23, 2021
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County
8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida

Attendance is **not** required. If you wish to attend in person to make a public comment, PCLB's public comment policy will be in place. In addition, please note that COVID-19 restrictions including, but not limited to, wearing facial coverings over your mouth and nose and maintaining social distance will be in place.

If you wish to make a comment but will not be in attendance at the public hearing, you may submit written comments to be received **by 12:00 noon Monday, June 21, 2021 to**

Lisa Zacharia:

- ❖ By mail: Lisa Zacharia, Child Care Licensing Program, Florida Dept. of Health, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000, Largo, FL 33771, or
- ❖ By fax at 727-507-4858, or
- ❖ By email to Lisa.Zacharia@flhealth.gov

Underlined words are proposed additions/changes.



8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000, Largo, FL 33771 * (727) 507-4857 * Fax (727) 507-4858 * www.PCLB.org
Funded by: Juvenile Welfare Board, Florida Department of Children and Families and Pinellas County Health Department

I. To increase Fee for Children’s Center License

Current Regulation:

X. APPLICATION, FEES, LICENSE

B. Fees

2. In addition to the application fee, each children’s center will be charged a license fee of \$50.00 plus \$1.00 per child based upon the license capacity of the children’s center.

Proposed Regulation:

X. APPLICATION, FEES, LICENSE

B. Fees

3. In addition to the application fee, each children’s center will be charged a license fee of \$100.00 plus \$1.00 per child based upon the license capacity of the children’s center.

Finding of Necessity:

PCLB finds it necessary, not merely desirable, to increase the cost of licensing a Children’s Center. There has not been an increase to the cost of licensing a Children’s Center since 2007 and over the past 14 years, costs have gone up dramatically such as salary increases, mileage reimbursement, insurance, materials, audit costs etc. The funding from DCF has not increased since 2006 and the current cost to operate licensing is outpacing any increases in funding from other funders. The increased fee will help offset the increased costs of operating expenses.

Implementation Date: November 1, 2021 following September 22, 2021 Board Action if approved.

II. To add a new regulation providing for a fee for a non-mandatory preliminary inspection of a possible location for a Children’s Center.

Current Regulation:

None.

Proposed Regulation:

X. APPLICATION, FEES, LICENSE

B. Fees

2. Each preliminary site inspection (non-mandatory) will cost \$50.00.

Finding of Necessity:

PCLB finds it necessary, not merely desirable, to charge for a non-mandatory preliminary site inspection. Prospective center owners often request a preliminary site inspection, prior to purchasing or leasing space. There has been no charge for this service, and approximately 35% never end up opening a Children’s Center. Thus, the service has been performed for free. Licensing specialists are being paid for their mileage and time to conduct these preliminary inspections and thus, PCLB has been incurring this cost without reimbursement and cannot continue to offer the service without charging for it.

Implementation Date: November 1, 2021 following September 22, 2021 Board Action if approved.

-
- III. To add a new regulation providing for a fee for filing a petition for a variance or waiver for Children's Centers.

Current Regulation: *None.*

Proposed Regulation:

X. APPLICATION, FEES, LICENSE

B. Fees

4. *The cost for filing each petition for a variance or waiver is \$100.*

Finding of Necessity:

PCLB finds it necessary, not merely desirable, to charge for processing a petition for a variance or waiver. When a provider files a petition for a variance/waiver from either a Pinellas or a state regulation staff must spend time analyzing the request and gathering information necessary from the provide. Thereafter legal counsel is consulted and an Order on the petition is drafted and entered. In addition, when a provider seeks a variance/waiver of a state regulation PCLB is required to publish it in the Florida Administrative Register and PCLB is also required to publish the disposition in the Florida Administrative Register. For both publications on a statewide request for variance/waiver the publication costs are approximately \$80. PCLB has not been charging for petitions for waiver/variance and PCLB has been incurring all of the expenses associates thereto and charging \$100 per petition would offset some of the costs associated with petitions for variance/waiver.

Implementation Date: November 1, 2021 following September 22, 2021 Board Action if approved.

- IV. To add a new regulation requiring a Children's Center Director who has not been a director in Pinellas County within the previous 12 months to attend the License Board Training Pinellas Director Basics within 90 days of hire as a Director in Pinellas County.

Current Regulation: *None.*

Proposed Regulation:

I. Personnel

C. Training

- 10. A Director who has not been employed as a Director in Pinellas County within the previous 12 months must attend the License Board Training Pinellas Director Basics within 90 days of hire as a Director in Pinellas.*

Finding of Necessity:

Pinellas County not only meets 402 F.S. and 65C-22 FAC, but Chapter 61-2681 allows PCLB to exceed the state's minimum standards and have increased and/or additional regulations. Pinellas County regulations differ from the state regulations in many areas, including, but not limited to, infant care, ratios, group size, attendance recording requirements and children's records requirements. It is crucial that Directors understand their responsibility in the day to day operation of a Children's Center, including ramifications of not meeting compliance with Pinellas regulations. This course is designed to foster success in Pinellas County by focusing on the different/increased regulations in Pinellas County and answering questions early in a Director's Pinellas County tenure, to help the Director succeed in Pinellas County. Thus, because of the many areas where Pinellas is different from the state regulations PCLB finds it necessary, not merely desirable, to require that all Directors who have not been employed as a Director in Pinellas County within the previous 12 months attend the License Board Training Pinellas Director Basics within 90 days of employment as a Director in Pinellas.

Implementation Date: November 1, 2021 following September 22, 2021 Board Action if approved.
