

The Pinellas County License Board welcomes input from Pinellas County citizens. Persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at this meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Please see Policy for Recording Meetings on page 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY (Revised 10/01/13)

1. Public Comment Procedure for Regular and Special Board Meetings, and Public Hearings:

1. If you wish to speak in front of the Board on either an agenda item or during the open agenda, you must fill out the Public Comment Card and provide it to the designated Board representative. If you do not wish to speak in front of the Board but wish to designate a representative to speak for you or indicate your support, opposition or neutrality on a proposition you must fill out the appropriate section of the Public Comment Card and provide it to the designated Board representative.
2. When your name is called, come to the podium, be recognized by the Chairman, state your name, and make your comment. If you are speaking as a representative of a group or faction please state the group or faction on whose behalf you are speaking. Comments should be concise and to the point. Supporting documentation may be distributed to the Board. Documents will be filed with the minutes.
3. Individual speakers have up to 3 minutes.
4. A spokesperson representing a group or faction has up to 5 minutes. In addition to completing the Public Comment Card designating their representative and indicating their support, supporters may stand while the comment is being made.
5. Clapping, heckling or verbal outbursts in support or opposition to a speaker's comments is discouraged.
6. Repetitious comment(s) are also discouraged. If a speaker is saying what you signed up to say, if you so wish, you may stand during their comment and then decline when your name is called to speak.

Public Comment for Agenda Items and Items not on the Agenda:

- Prior to official action by the Board (except for ministerial acts or when the Board is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity) members of the public will be given opportunity to comment.
- In addition, the public will be given the opportunity to comment on items not on the Agenda during the Open Agenda portion of the meeting.

Note:

Comment to the Board does not constitute a formal complaint, is not considered a request for records under the Public Records Act, and does not require staff response unless directed to do so by Board.

2. Making a Presentation to the Board:

To make a presentation to the Board lasting longer than the allotted time for public comment on any matter, please contact the Child Care Licensing Program office at 727-507-4857 for an application. All applications must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the Board meeting at which the presentation would occur. Staff will determine whether to grant or deny the request, and will set the length of time allotted for the presentation.

3. Process for Decreasing or Increasing Licensing Regulations

Decreases:

- In the event the License Board determines it reasonable to decrease the requirements of any particular standard, it may do so by action of the Board only. However, state regulations (Chapters 65-C and 402) can only be decreased by the state not by county authority.

Increases:

- At a regular or special meeting, the Board will review the proposed increase for the first time. There shall be a finding of necessity, not merely desirability. The Board will hear public comment according to the procedure above.

Following the meeting if approved, the licensing program must notice the finding, and mail to all licensees the old standard, the proposed new standard, the reason for the change and a hearing date.

- At the hearing, Board must give an opportunity for all affected persons to present their views. The Board will hear public comment according to the procedure above.
- The proposed new standard may not be considered (discussed) again by the Board until a meeting at least 90 days after the hearing, at which time, if approved by at least 5/7 of the Board, it shall be adopted. The Board will hear public comment according to the procedure above. During the 90-day period, written public comment may be received and will be forwarded to Board members; however, Board cannot discuss it until the final meeting.
- Any new standard must provide a reasonable effective date. The Pinellas County License Board must provide sufficient notification to providers and must establish a reasonable effective date.
- Substantive changes made during the Final Agency Action would necessitate a new Public Hearing.

4. Policy for Recording

Citizens desiring or requiring a verbatim transcript of the meeting, or needing a transcript for appeal, should, at their own expense, retain a certified court reporter to record the meeting, or the relevant portion of the meeting.

Citizens not needing a verbatim transcript or transcript for appeal may use silent, unobtrusive recording devices to record meetings.

Video cameras may be used to record meetings, but the cameras must be hand held. Tripods may be used only in the area(s) designated by staff. The designated tripod area will not impede ingress or egress, or the ability of attendees to see the meeting and will be adjusted according to known attendance.

Persons needing an accommodation may request it by calling the Executive Director's office at 727-507-4857 at least two business days prior to the Board meeting