

Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers & Family Day 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

Patsy Buker, Executive Director
Elise Minkoff, Chairman



MEMORANDUM

To: Children's Centers Owners/Directors

From: Patsy Buker, Executive Director
Jorie Massarsky, Environmental Supervisor I

Date: April 28, 2011

Subject: Decrease in Regulations

Staff recommended decreasing two regulations at the April 14, 2011 Board Meeting as follows:

The first regulation approved by the Board for decrease is:

IX. FOOD AND NUTRITION

C. Food Service

- ~~8. Formula provided by the center shall be commercially prepared ready-to-feed formula. The formula shall be iron fortified, unless otherwise recommended by the parents or a licensed medical authority.~~

Rationale:

Powdered formula is widely used to provide infants with adequate nutritional intake. There is a great cost disparity between powdered formula and the more expensive ready-to-feed formula, as consumers are paying for simplicity of preparation. Approved food programs provide powdered formula to children's centers that participate in their program. To not allow parents of infants to participate in the food program causes unnecessary expense. If children's centers choose to only serve ready-to-feed formula that would be their own business practice and it would be acceptable.

Implementation Date: June 1, 2011

Impact on Children's Centers: Effective June 1, 2011, powdered formula, with or without iron, may be provided by children's centers to infants in care. Directions for preparation, provided by the manufacturer on the package, must be followed. Infants may receive formula through the various food programs that operate in Pinellas County. Owners/operators can choose to only serve ready-to-feed formula if that is their business practice. All other regulations regarding formula, including the labeling of bottles and their storage remain in effect.

The second regulation approved by the Board for decrease is:

II. SUPERVISION

A. General Supervisory Standards

9. A staff member qualified to be in charge shall be on the premises at all times when children are present.
 - a. ~~Any licensed children's center receiving a Class I fine will be required to have an employee with SMIC qualifications, not responsible for children during all hours of operation, for a time frame of six (6) months from the date the Class I fine is issued.~~
 - b. ~~Any licensed children's center receiving a Probationary-Provisional license, will be required to have an employee with SMIC qualifications not responsible for children during the hours of operation for the time frame of the Probationary-Provisional license.~~

Rationale:

When a children's center receives a Class 1 fine, or receives a Probationary License, they are required to submit a management plan that outlines how they will ensure that these violations do not occur again. That plan must be accepted and approved by the Child Care Licensing Program. The management plan should outline policies and procedures that the children's center will be putting into place to ensure future compliance with regulations. If they believe that having a staff member in charge out of ratio should be an integral part of this plan, then that should be their decision. Class 1 fines and multiples fines in one standard that might move a children's center to a Probationary License are not always successfully addressed by having an extra person out of ratio.

Implementation Date: June 1, 2011

Impact on Children's Centers: As of the above date, if a children's center receives a Class 1 fine or is placed on a Probationary license due to repeated violations of the same standard, they will still be asked to develop a Director's Management Plan. No longer must that plan include a Staff Member in Charge out of ratio at all times children are in care for six months. The Management Plan should address the specific incident or series of violations that have caused the children's center to receive disciplinary sanctions. It is now the decision of the Director as to how to bring the children's center into compliance with all licensing regulations. Please remember that a Staff Member in Charge is still required to be present during all hours that children are in care; however they may be used in ratio.

The stricken regulations will be removed from *Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Children's Centers*. These regulations are available for review and/or download at our website, www.pclb.org. If you prefer, you can keep this memorandum with your current copy of regulations, and refer to it. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 507-4857.