

December 2014

Dear Director:

New Regulations Effective June 1, 2015



The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is pleased to announce that its review of public comment on the day care center, school age child care and small day care center regulations is complete. The new regulations were adopted on November 19, 2014 and are **effective on June 1, 2015**. This six month lag period was built into the process so that programs have time to review the changes and come into compliance by June 1, 2015.

OCFS's main objectives in changing day care center, school age child care, and small day care center regulations was to strengthen health and safety standards, correct conflicting regulatory language discovered in existing citations relative to the administration of medication, update the regulations with recent changes made to Social Services Law and the NYS Building Code, and make the regulations easier to understand.

On November 19, 2014, OCFS posted to its website the new regulations, the assessment of public comment, a summary of the assessment and a summary of substance. We recommend that programs become familiar with the new regulations and regularly check the website for opportunities for training. You can find the new regulations online at <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/default.asp>. To order a printed copy, call the Forms Warehouse at (518) 473-0971.

Training Opportunities

An e-learning is being developed from a recent videoconference with Dr. Edward Hallowell, a child and adult psychiatrist, *New York Times* bestselling author, world-renowned speaker and leading authority in the field of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Dr. Hallowell discussed a variety of topics including the history, medical and strength-based models of the disorder. He also introduced hands-on, practical strategies you can use to help a child in your care who has been diagnosed with ADHD. We invite you to view the videoconference posted on the OCFS website. Training credit will NOT be offered for viewing the videoconference, but will be awarded for taking the e-learning course available in 2015. Stay tuned.

Stay tuned, also, for the new Supervision e-learning coming your way soon. All e-learning course topics can be found at: <http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/elearn.shtm>.

Law Requiring the Posting of OCFS Inspection Histories



Social Services Law was amended this past legislative session to require that all child day care programs post and maintain in a prominent place, a notice containing the results of the most recent OCFS inspection history. This new law becomes effective January 1, 2015.

OCFS is required to provide this posting to the program. Beginning in January 2015, OCFS will mail the required posting, as a separate document, in the envelope with its inspection letter. **Do not post the inspection letter** (it may contain confidential information); **post the inspection history report ONLY**. If you have questions, please contact your licensor or registrar.

What you should know about the Ebola Virus

Because of the attention given to this topic by the media and concerns expressed by providers, OCFS is attaching a sheet with useful information and answers to day care program questions. Please see attachment.

Important First Aid/CPR Training Information



The OCFS contract with the American Red Cross to provide First Aid/CPR training opportunities to child care providers is ending in mid-November. Despite the fact that OCFS is no longer contracting with the American Red Cross, the Red Cross training in First Aid and CPR will continue to be accepted as meeting the regulatory requirement. The Red Cross will also continue to participate as a training organization affiliated with the Educational Incentive Program (EIP).

The National Safety Council is the new OCFS contracted training provider for First Aid/CPR beginning in December 2014.

Please check the website for more information as it becomes available. In addition, you will be receiving a post card in the mail from The National Safety Council with important updates. The National Safety Council will provide this training at no cost to you starting in December 2014.

Winter Safety



Winter weather brings a variety of hazards including treacherous driving conditions, extreme cold, and snow accumulation and drifting. The build-up of snow or ice around buildings can interfere with safe passage from a building, as well as compromise the function of mechanical equipment. Some areas to focus on are:

Exits, Pathways and Safe Areas:

Snow and ice should not obstruct any exits from buildings; this includes the pathways from emergency exits to the public way. It should be removed from building steps, the areas around exits, and routes of travel from exits to the meeting place. Keeping the meeting place clear of snow is essential to provide for a safe waiting area when emergency response vehicles arrive. Snow and ice removal should include clearing all areas that are in the site evacuation plan.

Vents, Utilities and Mechanical Equipment:

Keeping vents to mechanical equipment clear of snow and ice accumulation is an additional safety concern. When clearing snow from walkways and meeting places, it is important to consider where the snow will be deposited. Piling snow against buildings can obstruct or damage vents for boilers, furnaces, hot water tanks, and clothes dryers which can cause the appliance to not operate properly or even shut down completely. If the unit operates improperly, it could emit poisonous carbon monoxide gas. Utility equipment such as gas meters and electrical service should also be kept clear and accessible to avoid natural gas seeping back into the building. Gently clear away snow from the meter using a plastic shovel or broom.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Survey



Although pests and pest management are a tiny part of what you think about each day in a child care business, when pest activity occurs (such as ants in food, mouse droppings in toy bins, head lice on children, or a wasp sting), pests can become the #1 top priority of the day. Cornell Cooperative Extension wants to give you the best information about how to prevent or handle these issues while also protecting the health and safety of children and staff, assuring parents, and avoiding legal and financial liability for the business. A postcard was sent to all child care centers asking for you to complete a 10 minute survey that will help Cornell plan for new programs and materials that in turn will help you deal with the issues and situations at the top of your must-solve list. Participants will be entered into a drawing for one of many free on-site trainings by a Cornell University pest-management expert. Your answers will also help Cooperative Extension develop classroom training on pest management which will be offered at no charge to all.

For questions about any items in this letter, please contact your licensor or registrar. Best wishes for good health and company during this holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice Molnar".

Janice M. Molnar Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services

Si necesita leer esta carta en español, visite el portal de la División de Servicios de Cuidado Infantil en <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/letters.asp>. Si no tiene acceso a la Red o Internet, contacte al encargado de licencias o registros para recibir ayuda.