



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

DAMIA HARRIS-MADDEN, Ed.D., MBA, M.S.
Commissioner

September 3, 2024

Dear Provider:

This letter is being sent to all day care centers to share information about Brendan's Law. In 2010, two-year-old Brendan McCarthy died after becoming entangled in the cord of a window blind while playing with his brother. In response to this tragedy, Brendan's Law was enacted in New York State. Effective December 28, 2024, this law requires all new or replacement window coverings installed in day care centers to be cordless or have inaccessible operational and inner cords. All window coverings already in place in day care centers that include window and door blind cords, ropes, wires, and other strangulation hazards must be secured and inaccessible to children, as required by OCFS regulations.

A report published by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that between 1990 and 2015, more than 16,000 children in the United States younger than 6 years of age were treated in an emergency room after window blind-related injuries, with approximately 12% of the injuries due to entanglement. Nearly one child under 5 years of age each month dies from an accident involving window coverings with cords, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

In 2018, the Window Covering Manufacturers Association adopted new safety standards requiring that all stock window coverings sold online and in stores be cordless or have inaccessible cords.

If you have any questions about Brendan's Law, please reach out to your regulator for assistance.

Thank you for your continued dedication to keeping the children of New York State safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nora Yates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nora K. Yates
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services