

## FAMILY CHILD CARE CONSUMER AWARENESS INFORMATION

***Family Child Care (FCC) is provided by the home of a licensed provider for up to eight children with one adult or up to 14 children with one adult and one assistant. FCC homes provide a home like setting. Making sure that the licensed FCC homes are providing safe care is the job of the licensing agency, the parents and the provider.***

### HEALTH and SAFETY CHECKLIST

You should check for basic health and safety practices in the home. Your FCC Provider, by state law and regulation, must do the following:

- Get a license from the local licensing agency.
- Provide care to no more than eight children (with no more than two children under age 2) or 14 children with an assistant (with no more than 3 children under age 2).
- Make sure the home has heat in cold weather and is cool in hot weather.
- Keep detergents and cleaning products out of children's reach.
- Make sure swimming pools are fenced or have a pool cover.
- Baby gates must block stairs in facilities when children less than five years old are in care.
- Store guns, other weapons, and poisons in locked areas.
- Have an emergency plan in case of fire or earthquake.
- Keep an emergency information card on every child in care.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and working smoke alarm in the FCC home.
- Provide a smoke free environment.
- Not use baby walkers, bouncers or similar items.

### WHAT SHOULD THE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME PROVIDE?

**You should** get answers to these questions before placing your child in the home:

- Is the home clean and safe?
- Are there enough toys and games?
- How will my child be disciplined? (**Spanking, hitting, slapping, shaking and so forth are not permitted in licensed homes.**)
- What meals will my child be given?
- How will the food I bring be stored and prepared?
- Is there enough room (*indoor and outdoor*) for my child to play?
- What activities are planned for my child?
- How will my child be cared for when he or she gets sick?
- How many other children will be in care?
- What ages are the other children?
- What are the sleeping/napping/rest arrangements?
- How will I find out if my child is hurt or injured while in care?

### DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING WITH THE PROVIDER:

- **Setting times** for arrival and pickup.
- **Bringing items** from home (*food, toys, change of diapers, change of clothes, toothbrush, infant furniture, and so forth*).
- **Providing instructions** for giving medicines or special food.
- **Providing telephone numbers** for home, work, spouse's work, doctor and neighbor.
- **Providing a list of names** and telephone numbers of people who may pick up your child.

### GOOD CHILD CARE INCLUDES THESE THINGS:

- **A provider** who provides warm and loving care and guidance for your child, and who works with you and your family to make sure your child grows and learns in the best way possible.
- **A home** that keeps your child safe, secure, and healthy.
- **Activities** that help your child grow mentally, physically, socially and emotionally.
- **Your involvement** in your child's care.

## WHAT ARE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES?

*The California Department of Social Services licenses homes to provide child care, and wants you to understand the licensing laws and the ways in which you can check the quality of care your child receives.*

### WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO?

- **Ask** to see the FCC home license. Homes caring for children from more than one family must be licensed.
- **Check** the condition of the FCC home frequently. Parents have the legal right to "drop in" at any time care is being provided.
- **Know** your rights as a parent by reading and keeping the Notification of Parents' Rights form.
- **Make sure** the Parents' Rights Poster is displayed in the home.
- **Watch** how your child acts in the home.
- **Listen** to what your child tells you about the care received in the home.
- **Talk** with the provider about any problems. Inform the provider of anything in the home which could hurt your child.
- **Call or write** the licensing agency if the provider fails to fix a hazard or if you believe your child has been harmed while in the provider's care. (See "How to file a complaint")
- **Ask** to see the licensing reports on file in the home.
- **Call or visit** the licensing office and ask to look at your provider's licensing file
- **Ask** if there are any adults in the home that have a criminal background.

### PARENTS OF BABIES SHOULD ENSURE THAT:

- The baby receives **good nutrition** and is fed at the proper times.
- **A stimulating environment** is provided.
- The provider gives **emotional support**, and holds the child regularly.
- The provider cares for **no more than four babies**.
- Babies are **placed on their backs** when put down to sleep or nap.

### HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT ABOUT A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

#### COMPLAINT PROCESS

1. If you think a FCC provider is breaking the licensing laws, you may file a complaint with the local licensing office. You can find the address and telephone number in the following ways:
  - the provider's license
  - your copy of the Parents' Rights Notification form
  - the telephone book under:  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING**  
OR  
**COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
WELFARE OR SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
CHILD CARE LICENSING**
- The California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division's website at [www.cclcd.ca.gov](http://www.cclcd.ca.gov)
2. Call or write your local licensing office and explain your complaint. Your name will remain anonymous unless you give us permission to use it. You will be notified of the results when the investigation is done.
3. If you believe your child is being physically or sexually abused, you should also report it to your local Police Department or Sheriff's Department.
4. Contact the local licensing office about any issues or questions you may have.
5. To learn more about the Child Care Licensing program and services, please visit our website. There you will find child care licensing updates, regulations, and information about the child care advocate program.

**WHEN YOU REPORT SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS YOU NOT ONLY PROTECT YOUR CHILD BUT ALSO PERFORM A SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY.**

### WHAT THE LICENSING AGENCY DOES

- Visits each FCC home before issuing a license to operate.
- Does criminal background checks and child abuse index checks on all adults in the home.
- Requires tuberculosis (TB) tests of providers.
- Investigates complaints.
- Makes unannounced visits to the FCC home.
- Denies applications and revokes licenses when necessary.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF LICENSING REPORTS

I, as the parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, currently attending or newly enrolled at \_\_\_\_\_ child care center/family child care home acknowledge I have received the following information as required by Health and Safety Code sections 1596.8595 and 1596.8895.

- Copy of any licensing report that documents a Type A deficiency cited at this facility; Type A deficiencies are those that, if not corrected, represent an immediate risk to the health, safety or personal rights of children in care. This includes facility visits and substantiated complaint investigations.

Date(s) of licensing report(s) provided: \_\_\_\_\_

- Copy of licensing documents pertaining to a conference conducted by a local licensing agency management representative and the licensee of this child care center/family child care home in which issues of noncompliance are discussed.

Date of document provided: \_\_\_\_\_

- Copy of the Accusation Summary indicating the Department's intent to revoke the license of this child care center/family child care home, until that accusation is either dismissed or resolved through the administrative hearing process or stipulated agreement.

Date of document provided: \_\_\_\_\_

- As a parent/legal guardian of a newly enrolled child in this child care center/family child care home, I have been provided the documents identified above received by the licensee during the 12-month period prior to my child's enrollment.

My signature below verifies I have received the documents identified above.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

DATE DOCUMENTS RECEIVED:

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### CAREGIVER BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The California Department of Social Services works to protect the safety of children in child care by licensing child care centers and family child care homes. Our highest priority is to be sure that children are in safe and healthy child care settings. California law requires a background check for any adult who owns, lives in, or works in a licensed child care home or center. Each of these adults must submit fingerprints so that a background check can be done to see if they have any history of crime. If we find that a person has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or a marijuana-related offense covered by the marijuana reform legislation codified at Health and Safety Code sections 11361.5 and 11361.7, he/she cannot work or live in the licensed child care home or center unless approved by the Department. This approval is called an exemption.

A person convicted of a crime such as murder, rape, torture, kidnapping, crimes of sexual violence or molestation against children **cannot by law be given an exemption that would allow them to own, live in or work in** a licensed child care home or center. If the crime was a felony or a serious misdemeanor, the person must leave the facility while the request is being reviewed. If the crime is less serious, he/she may be allowed to remain in the licensed child care home or center while the exemption request is being reviewed.

#### How the Exemption Request is Reviewed

We request information from police departments, the FBI and the courts about the person's record. We consider the type of crime, how many crimes there were, how long ago the crime happened and whether the person has been honest in what they told us.

The person who needs the exemption must provide information about:

- The crime
- What they have done to change their life and obey the law
- Whether they are working, going to school, or receiving training
- Whether they have successfully completed a counseling or rehabilitation program

The person also gives us reference letters from people who aren't related to them who know about their history and their life now.

We look at all these things very carefully in making our decision on exemptions. By law this information cannot be shared with the public.

#### How to Obtain More Information

As a parent or authorized representative of a child in licensed child care, you have the right to ask the licensed child care home or center whether anyone working or living there has an exemption. If you request this information, and there is a person with an exemption, the child care home or center must tell you the person's name and how he or she is involved with the home or center and give you the name, address, and telephone number of the local licensing office. You may also get the person's name by contacting the local licensing office. You may find the address and phone number on our website. The website address is <http://ccld.ca.gov/contact.htm>.

## FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS' RIGHTS

### PARENTS' RIGHTS

As a Parent/Authorized Representative, you have the right to:

1. Enter and inspect the family child care home without advance notice whenever children are in care.
2. File a complaint against the licensee with the licensing office and review the licensee's public file kept by the licensing office.
3. Review, at the family child care home, reports of licensing visits and substantiated complaints against the licensee made during the last three years.
4. Complain to the licensing office and inspect the family child care home without discrimination or retaliation against you or your child.
5. Be notified and receive, from the licensee, a written notice that lists the name of any person not allowed in the family child care home while children are present. **(NOTE: This notice is only required when the Department has, in writing, excluded someone from the family child care home on or after January 1, 2001).**
6. Request in writing that a parent not be allowed to visit your child or take your child from the family child care home, provided you have shown a certified copy of a court order.
7. Receive from the licensee the name, address and telephone number of the local licensing office.

Licensing Office Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Licensing Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Licensing Office Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Be informed by the licensee, upon request, of the name and type of association to the family child care home for any adult who has been granted a criminal record exemption, and that the name of the person may also be obtained by contacting the local licensing office.
9. Receive, from the licensee, the Caregiver Background Check Process form.
10. Be informed, by the licensee, that the facility has or does not have liability insurance (or a bond) that covers injury to clients due to the negligence of the licensee or employees of the facility.

**NOTE: CALIFORNIA STATE LAW PROVIDES THAT THE LICENSEE MAY DENY ACCESS TO THE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME TO A PARENT/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IF THE BEHAVIOR OF THE PARENT/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE POSES A RISK TO CHILDREN IN CARE.**

*For the Department of Justice "Registered Sex Offender" database, go to [www.meganslaw.ca.gov](http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov)*

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(Detach Here - Give Upper Portion to Parents)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS' RIGHTS (Parent/Authorized Representative Signature Required)

I, the parent/authorized representative of \_\_\_\_\_, have received a copy of the "FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS' RIGHTS", the CAREGIVER BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS and the FAMILY CHILD CARE CONSUMER AWARENESS INFORMATION form from the licensee, \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Family Child Care Home

Signature (Parent/Authorized Representative) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: This Acknowledgement must be kept in child's file and a copy of the Notification given to the parent/authorized representative.**

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