



Oklahoma Department of Human Services
Child Care Services
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www.okdhs.org/childcare



September 26, 2012

Dear Program Director,

Enclosed are proposed requirement revisions affecting child care centers, school-age programs, part-day programs, day camps, drop-in centers and centers caring for sick children. The effective date of these proposed revisions is November 1, 2013.

In November 2009, the Child Care Advisory Committee approved to combine requirements for these types of programs into one requirement book and develop proposed requirement revisions. As many of the requirements for each program type were similar, combining the requirements allowed for improved formatting and reorganization to clarify requirements and program differences for child care providers. Proposed increases to minimum requirements were based upon legislative changes, current research and input from providers to improve overall quality of care to children.

The Revision Subcommittee, comprised of a majority of private child care programs, and addendum groups representing each type of program, licensing and other agencies have been meeting monthly to develop these combined requirements and proposed revisions.

The proposed requirements are organized as follows:

- **Common requirements**-Sections 275 through 306 contain common requirements for all program types.
- **Addendum requirements**-Sections 307 through 312 contain specific requirements for the various programs types. The addendums contain either exemptions from common requirements and/or additional requirements based upon differences of the programs and services to children. Please note the change of school-age programs being identified in the revisions as out-of- school time programs.
- **Appendices/Supplements**-These documents provide further information regarding the requirements.

The document has the following identifications:

- **Underlines**-combining the requirements require language to be underlined. This does not indicate that all language is new; however, language has been revised to provide requirement clarifications.
- **Gray highlights**- identify either an increased standard or significant revision.
- **Green highlights**-identify new requirements for specific program types.
- **Brown highlights**-identify pending proposed legislation and OKDHS policy changes.

"Assuring Oklahoma's families have access to licensed, affordable, quality child care"

Comments regarding the proposed requirement revisions may be provided through two processes:

On-line public comments- an online public comment survey is available at www.okdhs.org/childcare and click on the Public Comments-Proposed Requirement Revisions. This will be available beginning Friday October 5th through midnight Sunday October 21st.

Public hearings-public hearings are scheduled at the following locations:

Monday, October 15, 2012

*Tulsa Technology Center
Career Services Center Auditorium
3420 S. Memorial Drive
Tulsa, OK 74145
1pm-3pm*

*City of McAlester
Southeast Expo Center, Room 101
4500 W. Highway 270
McAlester, OK 74501
6pm-8pm*

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

*Great Plains Technology Center
4500 W. Lee Blvd.
Building 300, Room 301 A/B
Lawton, OK 73505
1pm-3pm*

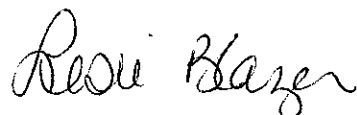
*Express Event Center
8512 NW Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73162
6pm-8pm*

The next steps in the proposed requirement revisions approval process:

- Revision Subcommittee will meet to consider public comments.
- Child Care Advisory Committee will vote on approval of proposed requirement revisions to proceed through OKDHS, legislative and Governor approval processes.
- New requirements will be mailed to programs in the summer of 2013.
- Requirement revisions will be effective November 1, 2013.

Thank you for your service to Oklahoma families and children. Working together we can continue to improve care of Oklahoma's children.

In partnership,



Lesli Blazer
Director
Oklahoma Child Care Services