



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: March 20, 2020

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo #9
Additional Child Care Waivers

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) provides the following information in response to the limiting and suspension of fingerprinting services provided by state police barracks and local police departments, and the need for child care for employees of hospitals and nursing homes.

On March 17, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order NO. 7E, which included a provision suspending required fingerprinting availability, among the many actions taken to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The OEC recognizes that prospective child care providers, their household members, and employees may be unable to submit fingerprints as required and therefore modifies this requirement accordingly.

The OEC is prioritizing child care availability for healthcare workers as the State responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. To support the critical work of hospital and nursing home staff, modification to licensing requirements will facilitate new temporary child care operations at these facilities.

These modifications will cease when the declared state of emergency ends.

- New prospective employees in child care centers and group child care homes, and family child care providers and their household members are not required to submit fingerprint cards for the purposes of criminal history records checks, which are performed in accordance with General Statutes § 29-17a. When individuals are unable to access fingerprint collections services, the comprehensive background checks performed by the OEC are modified to remove fingerprint-supported state and national criminal history records checks for the duration of the declared state of emergency. The OEC will continue to conduct searches of state and national sex offender registry records, Connecticut Child Abuse and Neglect Registry records, and criminal records available through the Connecticut Judicial Branch based on an individual's name and date of birth. Any new hiring of child care staff members or child

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care licensure that occurs during the declared state of emergency without a criminal history records check will require the submission of fingerprints so that a full comprehensive background check may be completed when the declared state of emergency ends. [General Statutes §§ 19a-80 (c), 19a-87b (c), and 17b-749k, and §§ 19a-79-4a (b) (1) and 19a-87b-6 (f) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.]

- A child care license is not required for programs providing child care services, as defined by General Statutes § 19a-77, which are administered by a hospital licensed in accordance with General Statutes § 19a-491 and pursuant to §19-13-D4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, or a chronic and convalescent nursing home or rest home with nursing supervision licensed in accordance with General Statutes § 19a-491 and pursuant to § 19-13-D8 of the regulations, provided the program providing child care services is operated on the grounds of such hospital or home, is offered exclusively for children whose parents or legal guardians are working at such hospital or home, the parents or legal guardians remain on the premises of such hospital or home during the hours the children are receiving child care services, and the parents and legal guardians receive notification from such hospital or home that the child care is not licensed by the OEC to provide such child care services. [General Statutes § 19a-80.]

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect the health and safety of Connecticut's children.