

## **Public Acts Recently Enacted**

The following is a list of public acts that passed during the 2018 legislative session that are specific to the Office of Early Childhood's (OEC) child care and/or youth camp licensing programs. This is only a summary. The complete text of each public act should be reviewed and may be accessed by visiting the Connecticut General Assembly's web site at [cga.ct.gov](http://cga.ct.gov).

### **Public Act 18-57 An Act Concerning Immunity From Civil or Criminal Liability for Persons Providing Medical Assistance or Intervention in a Child Abuse or Neglect Case (Effective July 1, 2018, and applicable to any civil action pending on or filed on or after said date)**

The Act eliminates current immunity from civil or criminal liability for any person, institution, or agency that, in good faith, does not report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or law enforcement as required or permitted by law. Good faith immunity continues to be available to any person, institution or agency that does report suspected child abuse or neglect.

### **Public Act 18-67 An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Statutes of the Department of Children and Families and Establishing a Pilot Program to Permit Electronic Reporting by Mandated Reporters**

Sections 4 through 7 of this Act, effective October 1, 2019, allow mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect to electronically file reports in a manner prescribed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). A reporter who files an initial report electronically must respond to further inquiries DCF makes within 24 hours of the report. The Act requires electronic reports to include the same information currently required for written and oral reports.

Section 12 of this Act, effective July 1, 2018, permits DCF to establish a pilot program from July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019, to permit certain categories of mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect to fulfill their responsibilities by submitting a report electronically to the DCF or law enforcement, as appropriate, when they have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child is abused, neglected, or at imminent risk of serious harm.

### **Public Act 18-169 An Act Concerning Child Care Licensing, Certain Municipal Pension Deficit Funding Bonds, Reciprocal Licensing or Itinerant Food Vending Establishments, Functions of the Department of Rehabilitation Services, Business Deductions and Taxation of Certain Wages and Income, Oral Health Assessments Requested by Local or Regional Boards of Education, Property Tax Treatment of Certain Converted Condominium and Common Interest Community Units, and Payment of Certain Grants, Advances and Transfers-Effective June 14, 2018**

Section 1 of this Act expands the list of licensure exemptions to include programs administered by Organized Parents Make a Difference, Inc., a Hartford-based nonprofit organization that is exclusively for school-age children.

### **Public Act 18-172 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood-Effective July 1, 2018**

Sections 1 and 2 of this bill make an allowance for children who are homeless to attend a licensed child care center, group child care home or family child care home for up to ninety days without documentation of required physical examination or immunizations. Child care programs are required to maintain record on file of homeless children who have attended such program for a period of two years after the child(ren) are no longer receiving services at such program.

Section 3 of this bill permits the OEC to consider a request to waive the application process when a currently licensed person or entity is seeking a change of operator, ownership or location subsequent to the change.

Section 4 of this bill allows a licensed family child care home provider to care for three additional school-age children, which includes the provider's own school-age children, during the summer provided there is an OEC approved assistant or substitute present and assisting the provider. If the provider has more than three such additional children who are the provider's own children, all of the provider's own children shall be permitted. Also, if all of the additional school age children are the provider's own children, an approved assistant or substitute shall not be required. This section of the bill also clarifies that the licensure exemption for private schools only applies if the program only serves children who are of an age covered under the program's accreditation. Additionally, this section of the bill limits the licensure exemption for relatives to those caregivers that are the child's grandparent, great-grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle.

Section 6 of this bill requires the OEC to provide contact information obtained from licensed child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for emergency notification purposes. Licensed child care programs no longer need to provide contact information directly to the local police.