
Care 4 Kids Program

POLICY TRANSMITTAL



DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES-CHILD CARE TEAM

Transmittal Number: C4K-POL-06-01

Date: January 20, 2006

To: Sherri Sutera, Program Director
Care 4 Kids Program

From: Claudette J. Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner of Programs
Department of Social Services

CC: Policy Distribution List

Subject: Telephone Requirements





Program Issue: DSS recently learned that some child care providers report using pre-paid cellular telephones to satisfy the health and safety requirement for child care settings. The Department has not previously addressed this issue with Care 4 Kids. This transmittal clarifies the Department's policy with respect to the use of all types of cellular telephones at the child care location.

Background: Section 17b-749-12(d)(8)(C) of the Uniform Child Care Regulations requires there to be a working telephone at the child care location. The telephone may be a hard-wired telephone that is readily accessible to the provider, including a pay telephone located in a commercial building, or a cellular telephone owned and operated by the child care provider. Generally, verification is in the form of a self-declaration. Additional verification may be required in cases where the circumstances are questionable.

Recently, questions have been raised about the use of pre-paid cellular telephones to meet this requirement. Pre-paid cellular telephones may be purchased from retail stores. Their use is limited to the number of minutes specified with the purchase. Unlike telephone service purchased through a commercial provider, pre-paid cellular telephone users do not have accounts or billing records to present as verification. Case counselors must rely on making random telephone calls to the child care location or on retail store receipts as proof of purchase.

To help resolve this question, DSS consulted with the Child Care Licensing Division of the Department of Public Health (DPH). It was determined that pre-paid cellular telephones are no more or less likely to be turned off or damaged than a hard-wired or regular cellular telephone. Given these circumstances, DSS has determined that pre-paid cellular telephones may be used to satisfy the telephone requirement.

Implementation: Effective immediately, child care providers will be permitted to use pre-paid cellular telephones to satisfy the telephone requirement. Generally, information provided in the Application and Parent Provider Agreement forms should be used as proof, except in situations where the information is questionable. In such cases, case counselors should require additional verification as necessary.

Please take necessary steps to share this information with staff.    

CJB:db