

Public Acts Recently Enacted

The following is a list of public acts passed during the 2022 legislative session that are specific to and have direct impact on 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.

Public Act 22-81 An Act Expanding Preschool and Mental and Behavioral Services for Children

Section 7 of this Act, effective July 1, 2022, expands the capacity of licensed family child care home providers when there is an OEC approved assistant or substitute present and assisting the provider. Effective July 1, 2022, the capacity of licensed family child care providers may be as follows, unless otherwise determined by the Office of Early Childhood:

With an approved staff present and assisting, the provider

- may care for up to nine children who are age eighteen months or older, including all of the provider's own children
- may NOT care for more than nine children (unless the provider has more than three children of his/her own children in school full time)

Without an approved staff present and assisting, the provider

- may care for not more than six children, including the provider's own children not in school full time
- during the school year, may care for three additional children who are in school full time, including the provider's own children. If the provider has more than three children of his/her own children in school full time, all of the provider's children shall be permitted
- during the summer months, may only care for six children, including the provider's own children not in school full time, plus any of the provider's own children who are otherwise enrolled in school full time

*This Act does not increase the number of children under the age of eighteen months that a provider may care for at one time. That is, it is permissible to have two children under the age of eighteen months without an approved staff present and assisting the provider OR six children under the age of eighteen months with an approved staff present and assisting the provider.

Sections 14 and 15 of this Act, effective July 1, 2022, require the OEC to adopt regulations that specify that licensed child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes shall immediately notify the parent or guardian of an enrolled child if such child exhibits or develops an illness or is injured while in care. Such regulations shall require programs to create a written record of any such illness or injury that

(A) includes but not be limited to:

- i. a description of such illness or injury
- ii. the date, time of occurrence and location of such illness or injury
- iii. any responsive action taken by an employee of such program, and
- iv. whether such child was transported to a hospital emergency room, doctor's office or other medical facility

(B) be provided to the parent or guardian of such child not later than the next business day, and

(C) be maintained by such program for a period of not less than two years and be made immediately available upon the request of the Office of Early Childhood.

"Illness" means fever, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, headache, persistent coughing, persistent crying or any other condition deemed an illness by the Commissioner of Early Childhood.

Such Act also require that the OEC adopt regulations that specify that child care centers, group child care homes or family child care homes shall maintain any video recordings created at such programs for a period of not less than thirty days, and make such recordings immediately available upon the request of the Office of Early Childhood.

The OEC will begin taking steps immediately to amend existing licensing regulations to incorporate these requirements.

Public Act 22-87 An Act Concerning the Identification and Prevention of and Response to Adult Sexual Misconduct Against Children

Section 4 of this Act, effective October 1, 2022, adds paid youth camp staff members who are twenty-one years of age or older to the list of persons who shall be mandated reporters.