



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



DATE: June 15, 2022

TO: Operators of Licensed Youth Camps

FROM: Debra L. Johnson, Director, Division of Licensing

RE: Revisions to Licensing Regulations Pertaining to Youth Camps

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) wishes to inform you of recent changes to the youth camp licensing regulations. These changes are effective June 13, 2022. All licensed youth camps are required to comply with these regulations. A plain language summary of the changes is enclosed for your reference. You may obtain a full copy of the regulations with all changes by visiting the OEC website at <https://www.ctoec.org/licensing/statutes-and-regulations>. A full copy of the regulations may also be obtained by calling the Licensing Division of the OEC at the number below.

Please share this information with all individuals involved with the operation of your camp. As a licensed provider, you are responsible for compliance with all of the regulations to ensure the safety, health and development of the children in your care. The OEC will monitor compliance with these new regulations when visiting programs. When a camp is found to be out of compliance with a requirement, several factors will be considered given the recent passage date of these changes. The OEC will consider the time that has elapsed since the new requirement became effective, what the actual requirement is and all efforts taken by the camp to comply when evaluating compliance. A camp should keep record of its efforts to comply with a new requirement so that it can be shared with the inspector during the inspection.

I want to thank the members of the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council and others in the camp community who participated in the collaborative process of enacting these updates to the regulations. I hope you find these changes are supportive of your program's operation while also ensuring the health and safety of campers and staff.

Summary of Changes to the Regulations for Licensed Youth Camps Effective June 13, 2022

This is a summary of the most significant changes to the licensing regulations that took effect on June 13, 2022. As a licensed provider, you are responsible for compliance with all of the regulations to ensure the safety, health and development of the children in your care. A full copy of the regulations with the specific language of all of the changes may be obtained by visiting the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) website at <https://www.ctoec.org/licensing/statutes-and-regulations> . A full copy of the regulations may also be obtained by calling the Licensing Division of the OEC at 1-800-282-6063 or 1-860-500-4450.

Section 19a-428-2. Administration and Staffing

- Clarifies that the director of each small craft waterfront area shall be at least twenty years of age
- Modifies the qualifications of the director of each small craft waterfront to require (1) successful completion of a boating safety course applicable to the type of small craft used at the youth camp and (2) experience and boating safety skills appropriate for the type of small craft used and body of water at the youth camp, verified and documented by the youth camp director
- Revises the content required in the written emergency management plan to include the assignment of staff responsibilities, identification of means of egress, identification of evacuation sites that will provide safe temporary care for children, transportation, plans for shelter in place if evacuation is not feasible, lock-down procedures, and accommodations for children with disabilities and chronic medical conditions that have been developed in consultation with the child's parent(s)
- Adds language consistent with the requirements of section 19a-421(f) of the Connecticut General Statutes that requires the completion of background checks beginning on October 1, 2022
- Requires operators to take reasonable steps to verify the past five years of child care employment in the U.S. of each prospective employee (those employed on or after June 13, 2022) who is eighteen years of age or older and to maintain documentation of such efforts on file at the camp. Such verification shall include at a minimum the prospective employee's job title, description of duties, confirmation of employment dates and whether such previous employer would recommend employment

Section 19a-428-5. Health Care

- Expands the list of acceptable CPR certifications to include certification by an organization using guidelines for CPR and emergency cardiovascular care published by the AHA and International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation