

LICENSING

Private Provider Licensing

20-2

Policy

The Department of Children and Families shall safeguard children who receive its services by licensing and providing regulatory oversight of congregate care facilities and other types of privately-operated programs as required by state statute and regulations.

The Licensing Unit of the DCF Office of Legal Affairs shall be responsible for licensing and monitoring privately-operated child caring (congregate care) facilities, child placing agencies, extended day treatment facilities, permanent family residences, out-patient psychiatric clinics for children and substance abuse facilities for children.

The Licensing Unit shall also be responsible for the approval of out-of-state child placing agencies that place children with Connecticut families who adopt privately.

Note: The Foster and Adoption Services Unit of the Clinical and Community Consultation and Support Team is responsible for licensing all DCF foster and pre-adoptive homes.

Legal references: R.C.S.A. [§17a-20-6 through 17a-20-61](#) (Licensure of Outpatient Psychiatric Clinics for Children); R.C.S.A. [§17a-145-48 through 17a-145-58](#) (Operation of Child Caring Agencies and Facilities); R.C.S.A. [§17a-147-1 through 17a-147-36](#) (Licensing of Extended Day Treatment Programs), and R.C.S.A. [§17a-150-51 through 17a-150-123](#) (Child Placing Agency Licensing and Responsibilities).

Purposes of Licensing

The primary purposes of licensing are to:

- support DCF in its mission to protect children in out-of-home care from abuse and neglect;
 - assure parents and the community that facilities, persons and agencies providing out-of-home care or other licensed services to a child meet specific requirements;
 - improve the quality of child care through regulation and consultation; and
 - ensure that all licensed service providers meet established standards of quality.
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**Licensing
Responsibility
of the Office
of Legal
Affairs
Licensing Unit**

The DCF Licensing Unit, which is part of the Office of Legal Affairs, shall be responsible for:

- the development of initial or revised proposed regulations, policies and procedures concerning licensees;
- ensuring the integrity of DCF's licensing and license renewal responsibilities by conducting direct licensing activities as well as monitoring licensed facilities and agencies;
- preparing written guidelines for licensed providers to assist them with maintaining regulatory compliance;
- conducting such other communications with licensed providers as is necessary to ensure continued regulatory compliance and quality of care;
- initiating licensing actions including denials, suspensions, revocations, capacity changes and other adjustments to licenses, as authorized by the Commissioner; and
- providing program monitoring, technical assistance and consultation for and to Regional and Area Offices, Central Office divisions and private provider licensees.

The Licensing Unit shall issue and renew licenses for and monitor the following privately-operated child caring facilities and agencies:

- in-state congregate care facilities, including residential treatment centers, group homes and Safe Homes;
- child placing agencies;
- extended day treatment programs;
- psychiatric residential treatment facilities;
- out-patient psychiatric clinics for children; and
- substance abuse facilities for children.

Note: Out-of-state congregate care facilities in which DCF places children shall be licensed in their home states and approved for DCF use by the DCF Program Evaluation and Development Unit.

Reference

Please refer to [Private Provider Licensing Practice Guide](#).