



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

Mark R. Herring  
Attorney General

202 North Ninth Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
804-786-2071  
Fax 804-786-1991  
Virginia Relay Services  
800-828-1120  
7-1-1

**TO:** MARGARET SCHULTZE, Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Social Services

**FROM:** ERIC J. REYNOLDS   
Assistant Attorney General

**DATE:** July 7, 2016

**SUBJECT:** 22 VAC40-111-10 (Licensure Threshold – Family Day Homes)

I am in receipt of the attached regulation regarding the definition of “family day home”. You have asked the Office of the Attorney General to review and determine if the State Board of the Virginia Department of Social Services has the statutory authority to promulgate the proposed regulation and if the proposed regulation comports with applicable state and federal law.

This regulation is amending existing language to this Section - 22 VAC 40-111-10 - to conform to House Bill 1570 and Senate Bill 1168, which were passed in the 2015 session of the General Assembly, but became effective July 1, 2016. This legislation amended the definition of “family day home” to lower the threshold required for licensure of family day homes to five children at any one time, exclusive of the provider’s own children and any children residing in the home.

It is my opinion that the State Board of DSS has the authority to promulgate this regulation, subject to compliance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Administrative Process Act (“APA”) and has not exceeded that authority.

It is my view that this regulation is exempt from the procedures of Article 2 of the APA pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-4006(A)(4)(a). If you have any questions or need additional information about these regulations, please contact me at 786-3450.

cc: Kim F. Piner, Esquire  
Attachment



Logged in as

Eric J. Reynolds

## Final Text

**Action:** Amend Licensure Threshold-Family Day Homes

**Stage:** Final

6/15/16 1:00 PM

### 22VAC40-111-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Accessible" means capable of being entered, reached, or used.

"Adult" means any individual 18 years of age or older.

"Age-appropriate" means suitable to the chronological age and individual needs of a child.

"Assistant" means an individual who helps the provider or substitute provider in the care, protection, supervision, and guidance to children in the home.

"Body fluids" means urine, feces, vomit, blood, saliva, nasal discharge, and tissue discharge.

"Caregiver" means an individual who provides care, protection, supervision, and guidance to children in the home and includes the provider, substitute provider, and assistant.

"Child" means an individual under 18 years of age.

"Child day program" means a regularly operating service arrangement for children where, during the absence of a parent or guardian, a person or organization has agreed to assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child under the age of 13 for less than a 24-hour period.

"Child with special needs" means a child with developmental disabilities, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, sensory or motor impairment, or significant chronic illness who requires special health surveillance or specialized programs, interventions, technologies, or facilities.

"Cleaned" means treated in such a way as to remove dirt and debris by scrubbing and washing with soap and water or detergent solution and rinsing with water.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services.

"Department" means the Virginia Department of Social Services.

"Department's representative" means an employee or designee of the Virginia Department of Social Services, acting as the authorized agent of the commissioner.

"Evacuation" means movement of occupants out of the building to a safe area

near the building.

"Family day home" means a child day program offered in the residence of the provider or the home of any of the children in care for one through 12 children under the age of 13, exclusive of the provider's own children and any children who reside in the home, when at least one child receives care for compensation. A family day home serving five through 12 children, exclusive of the provider's own children and any children who reside in the home, shall be licensed. A family day home caring for more than four children under the age of two, including the provider's own children and any children who reside in the home, shall be licensed or voluntarily registered. A family day home where the children in care are all related to the provider by blood or marriage shall not be required to be licensed.

"Good character and reputation" means knowledgeable and objective people agree that the individual (i) maintains business, professional, family, and community relationships that are characterized by honesty, fairness, and truthfulness; and (ii) demonstrates a concern for the well-being of others to the extent that the individual is considered suitable to be entrusted with the care, guidance, and protection of children. Relatives by blood or marriage, and people who are not knowledgeable of the individual, such as recent acquaintances, shall not be considered objective references.

"High school program completion or the equivalent" means an individual has earned a high school diploma or General Education Development (G.E.D.) certificate, or has completed a program of home instruction equivalent to high school completion.

"Inaccessible" means not capable of being entered, reached, or used.

"Infant" means a child from birth up to 16 months of age.

"Nighttime care" means care provided between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"Parent" means the biological, foster or adoptive parent, legal guardian, or any individual with responsibility for, or custody of a child enrolled in or in the process of being enrolled in a family day home.

"Physician" means an individual licensed to practice medicine in any of the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

"Preschool" means children from two years up to the age of eligibility to attend public school, age five by September 30 of that same year.

"Programmatic experience" means time spent working directly with children in a group that is located away from the child's home. Work time shall be computed on the basis of full-time work experience during the period prescribed or equivalent work time over a longer period. Experience settings may include, but not be limited to, a child day program, family day home, child day center, boys and girls club, field placement, elementary school, or a faith-based organization.

"Provider" means an individual who is issued the family day home license by the Department of Social Services and who has primary responsibility in providing care, protection, supervision, and guidance of children in the family home.

"Relocation" means movement of occupants of the building to a safe location away from the vicinity of the building.

"Residence" means principal legal dwelling or abode that is occupied for living purposes by the provider and contains the facilities necessary for sleeping, eating,

cooking, and family living.

"Sanitized" means treated in such a way as to remove bacteria and viruses from inanimate surfaces through first cleaning and secondly using a solution of one tablespoon of bleach mixed with one gallon of water and prepared fresh daily or using a sanitizing solution approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The surface of the item is sprayed or dipped into the sanitizing solution and then allowed to air dry.

"School age" means eligible to attend public school, age five or older by September 30 of that same year.

"Serious injury" means a wound or other specific damage to the body such as, but not limited to, unconsciousness; broken bones; dislocation; deep cut requiring stitches; poisoning; concussion; and a foreign object lodged in eye, nose, ear, or other body orifice.

"Shelter-in-place" means movement of occupants of the building to designated protected spaces within the building.

"Substitute provider" means an individual who meets the qualifications of a provider; is designated by the provider; and who provides care, protection, supervision, and guidance for children in the family day home when the provider is absent from the home for more than two hours.

"Time out" means a discipline technique in which a child is moved for a brief time away from the stimulation and reinforcement of ongoing activities and other children in the group to allow the child who is losing self-control to regain composure.

"Toddler" means a child from 16 months of age up to 24 months of age.

