

Federal and state laws have recently been changed that make important strides to protect the health and safety of children in child care programs. This brochure provides a brief summary of the new pieces of legislation and how they will affect licensed and permitted family child care providers in Fairfax County. The Office for Children will continue to share information about the changes and timelines for implementation with providers as they become available.

Thank you for your commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for the children in your care.

Resources for additional information:

- National Office of Child Care
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization
- Child Care Aware of Virginia
<http://va.childcareaware.org>
- Fairfax County Office for Children
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc
703-324-8100
- Virginia State Licensing
www.dss.virginia.gov
Fairfax Office
703-934-1505



Dept. of Family Services/Office for Children
Community Education and Provider Services
12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 800
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

703-324-8100
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc



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Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-8000 or TTY 711.



Understanding Recent Changes to Federal and State Laws for Family Child Care Providers in Fairfax County

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Federal Law

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary federal grant program that provides child care assistance for income-eligible families and funds child care quality initiatives. On November 19, 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 was signed into law, reauthorizing the CCDBG for the first time since 1996. The act makes significant advancements in health and safety requirements for child care and requires improvements in consumer education of child care options for the general public. The CCDBG Act also emphasizes increased investment in activities to improve the quality of care. Highlights of the legislation that affect family child care providers include new requirements for:

- National background checks.
- At least two monitoring visits per year for providers, one of which is unannounced.
- Online availability of monitoring reports for child care providers.

States are currently working to develop plans to meet the requirements of the CCDBG that are due to the federal government by March 2016.

What do these changes mean for Fairfax County Permitted Family Child Care Providers?

The recent federal and state legislation means several important changes for permitted family child care providers in Fairfax County:

- Starting in 2016, all permitted providers will receive an unannounced permit monitoring visit by OFC approximately six months before their permit expiration date. This is in addition to the renewal inspection.
- Starting on July 1, 2016, the Fairfax County home child care permit will change to allow providers to care for **up to four** children in their homes, not including the provider's own children or any resident children. **A state license will be required to care for five or more children.**
- By July 1, 2017, a national background check, which includes a fingerprint check, will be required for all permitted child care providers and all adult residents of the home.
- By November 19, 2017, families will be able to access results of permit visits and monitoring reports for permitted family child care providers on the Office for Children website.

State Law

On April 30, 2015, state legislation was signed into law that will improve the safety of child care programs in Virginia, and will change the requirement for licensure of family child care.

Highlights of this new legislation affecting family child care providers include:

- Starting July 1, 2016, a state license will be required for family home child care providers who care for **five or more** children, not including the provider's own children and any other children who reside in the home.
- Starting July 1, 2017, a national background check will be required for child care providers and all adult residents of the home.

