

## FAMILY CHILD CARE CONSUMER AWARENESS INFORMATION

***Family Child Care (FCC) is provided by the home of a licensed provider for up to eight children with one adult or up to 14 children with one adult and one assistant. FCC homes provide a home like setting. Making sure that the licensed FCC homes are providing safe care is the job of the licensing agency, the parents and the provider.***

### HEALTH and SAFETY CHECKLIST

You should check for basic health and safety practices in the home. Your FCC Provider, by state law and regulation, must do the following:

- ☒ Get a license from the local licensing agency.
- ☒ Provide care to no more than eight children (with no more than two children under age 2) or 14 children with an assistant (with no more than 3 children under age 2).
- ☒ Make sure the home has heat in cold weather and is cool in hot weather.
- ☒ Keep detergents and cleaning products out of children's reach.
- ☒ Make sure swimming pools are fenced or have a pool cover.
- ☒ Baby gates must block stairs in facilities when children less than five years old are in care.
- ☒ Store guns, other weapons, and poisons in locked areas.
- ☒ Have an emergency plan in case of fire or earthquake.
- ☒ Keep an emergency information card on every child in care.
- ☒ Keep a fire extinguisher and working smoke alarm in the FCC home.
- ☒ Provide a smoke free environment.
- ☒ Not use baby walkers, bouncers or similar items.

### WHAT SHOULD THE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME PROVIDE?

You should get answers to these questions before placing your child in the home:

- Is the home clean and safe?
- Are there enough toys and games?
- How will my child be disciplined? (Spanking, hitting, slapping, shaking and so forth are not permitted in licensed homes.)
- What meals will my child be given?
- How will the food I bring be stored and prepared?
- Is there enough room (*indoor and outdoor*) for my child to play?
- What activities are planned for my child?
- How will my child be cared for when he or she gets sick?
- How many other children will be in care?
- What ages are the other children?
- What are the sleeping/napping/rest arrangements?
- How will I find out if my child is hurt or injured while in care?

### DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING WITH THE PROVIDER:

- **Setting times** for arrival and pickup.
- **Bringing items** from home (*food, toys, change of diapers, change of clothes, toothbrush, infant furniture, and so forth*).
- **Providing instructions** for giving medicines or special food.
- **Providing telephone numbers** for home, work, spouse's work, doctor and neighbor.
- **Providing a list of names** and telephone numbers of people who may pick up your child.

### GOOD CHILD CARE INCLUDES THESE THINGS:

- **A provider** who provides warm and loving care and guidance for your child, and who works with you and your family to make sure your child grows and learns in the best way possible.
- **A home** that keeps your child safe, secure, and healthy.
- **Activities** that help your child grow mentally, physically, socially and emotionally.
- **Your involvement** in your child's care.



## POTENTIAL SOURCES OF LEAD

- Old paint, especially if it is chipped or peeling or if the home has been recently repaired or remodeled
- House dust
- Soil
- Some imported dishes, pots and water crocks. Some older dishware, especially if it is cracked, chipped, or worn
- Work clothes and shoes worn if working with lead
- Some food, candies and spices from other countries
- Some jewelry, toys, and other consumer products
- Some traditional home remedies and traditional make-up
- Lead fishing weights and lead bullets
- Water, especially if plumbing materials contain lead

## SYMPTOMS OF LEAD EXPOSURE

Most children who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick.

Symptoms, if any, may be confused with common childhood complaints, such as stomachache, crankiness, headaches, or loss of appetite.



## OPTIONS FOR LEAD TESTING



A blood lead test is free if you have Medi-Cal or if you are in the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP). Children on Medi-Cal, CHDP, Head Start, WIC, or at risk for lead poisoning, should be tested at age 1 and 2. Health insurance plans will also pay for this test. Ask your child's doctor about blood lead testing.

For more information, go to the California Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch's website at [www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb), or call them at (510) 620-5600.

(The information and images found on this publication are adapted from the California Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.)

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## EFFECTS OF LEAD EXPOSURE

Children 1-6 years old are the most at risk for lead poisoning.

- Lead poisoning can harm a child's nervous system and brain when they are still forming, causing learning and behavior problems that may last a lifetime.
- Lead can lead to a low blood count (anemia).
- Even small amounts of lead in the body can make it hard for children to learn, pay attention, and succeed in school.
- Higher amounts of lead exposure can damage the nervous system, kidneys, and other major organs. Very high exposure can lead to seizures or death.



## LEAD POISONING FACTS

- Buildup of lead in the body is referred to as lead poisoning.
- Lead is a naturally occurring metal that has been used in many products and is harmful to the human body.
- There is no known safe level of lead in the body.
- Small amounts of lead in the body can cause lifelong learning and behavior problems.
- Lead poisoning is one of the most common environmental illnesses in California children.
- The United States has taken many steps to remove sources of lead, but lead is still around us.

### IN THE US:

- Lead in house paint was severely reduced in 1978.
- Lead solder in food cans was banned in the 1980s.
- Lead in gasoline was removed in the early 1990s.



### LEAD IN TAP WATER

The only way to know if tap water has lead is to have it tested.



Tap water is more likely to have lead if:

- Plumbing materials, including fixtures, solder (used for joining metals), or service lines have lead in them;

- Water does not come from a public water system (e.g., a private well).

To reduce any potential exposure to lead in tap water:

- **Flush the pipes in your home**  
Let water run at least 30 seconds before using it for cooking, drinking, or baby formula (if used). If water has not been used for 6 hours or longer, let water run until it feels cold (1 to 5 minutes.)\*

- **Use only cold tap water for cooking, drinking, or baby formula (if used)**  
If water needs to be heated, use cold water and heat on stove or in microwave.

- **Care for your plumbing**  
Lead solder should not be used for plumbing work. Periodically remove faucet strainers and run water for 3-5 minutes.\*

- **Filter your water-** Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead.

### WARNING!

Some water crocks have lead. Do not give a child water from a water crock unless you know the crock does not have lead.



(\*Water saving tip: Collect your running water and use it to water plants not intended for eating.)

For information on testing your water for lead, visit The Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead) or call (800) 426-4791.

You can also visit The California Department of Public Health's website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov>.





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## WHAT ARE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES?

*The California Department of Social Services licenses homes to provide child care, and wants you to understand the licensing laws and the ways in which you can check the quality of care your child receives.*

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### WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO?

- **Ask** to see the FCC home license. Homes caring for children from more than one family must be licensed.
- **Check** the condition of the FCC home frequently. Parents have the legal right to "drop in" at any time care is being provided.
- **Know** your rights as a parent by reading and keeping the Notification of Parents' Rights form.
- **Make sure** the Parents' Rights Poster is displayed in the home.
- **Watch** how your child acts in the home.
- **Listen** to what your child tells you about the care received in the home.
- **Talk** with the provider about any problems. Inform the provider of anything in the home which could hurt your child.
- **Call or write** the licensing agency if the provider fails to fix a hazard or if you believe your child has been harmed while in the provider's care. (See "How to file a complaint")
- **Ask** to see the licensing reports on file in the home.
- **Call or visit** the licensing office and ask to look at your provider's licensing file
- **Ask** if there are any adults in the home that have a criminal background.

### PARENTS OF BABIES SHOULD ENSURE THAT:

- The baby receives **good nutrition** and is fed at the proper times.
- A **stimulating environment** is provided.
- The provider gives **emotional support**, and holds the child regularly.
- The provider cares for **no more than four babies**.
- Babies are **placed on their backs** when put down to sleep or nap.

### HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT ABOUT A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

#### COMPLAINT PROCESS

1. If you think a FCC provider is breaking the licensing laws, you may file a complaint with the local licensing office. You can find the address and telephone number in the following ways:

- the provider's license
- your copy of the Parents' Rights Notification form
- the telephone book under:

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING**

OR

**COUNTY OF Orange  
WELFARE OR SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
CHILD CARE LICENSING**

- The California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division's website at [www.cclid.ca.gov](http://www.cclid.ca.gov)
2. Call or write your local licensing office and explain your complaint. Your name will remain anonymous unless you give us permission to use it. You will be notified of the results when the investigation is done.
  3. If you believe your child is being physically or sexually abused, you should also report it to your local Police Department or Sheriff's Department.
  4. Contact the local licensing office about any issues or questions you may have.
  5. To learn more about the Child Care Licensing program and services, please visit our website. There you will find child care licensing updates, regulations, and information about the child care advocate program.

**WHEN YOU REPORT SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS YOU NOT ONLY PROTECT YOUR CHILD BUT ALSO PERFORM A SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY.**

### WHAT THE LICENSING AGENCY DOES

- Visits each FCC home before issuing a license to operate.
- Does criminal background checks and child abuse index checks on all adults in the home.
- Requires tuberculosis (TB) tests of providers.
- Investigates complaints.
- Makes unannounced visits to the FCC home.
- Denies applications and revokes licenses when necessary.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### CAREGIVER BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The California Department of Social Services works to protect the safety of children in child care by licensing child care centers and family child care homes. Our highest priority is to be sure that children are in safe and healthy child care settings. California law requires a background check for any adult who owns, lives in, or works in a licensed child care home or center. Each of these adults must submit fingerprints so that a background check can be done to see if they have any history of crime. If we find that a person has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, he/she cannot work or live in the licensed child care home or center unless approved by the Department. This approval is called an exemption.

A person convicted of a crime such as murder, rape, torture, kidnapping, crimes of sexual violence or molestation against children **cannot by law be given an exemption that would allow them to own, live in or work in** a licensed child care home or center. If the crime was a felony or a serious misdemeanor, the person must leave the facility while the request is being reviewed. If the crime is less serious, he/she may be allowed to remain in the licensed child care home or center while the exemption request is being reviewed.

#### How the Exemption Request is Reviewed

We request information from police departments, the FBI and the courts about the person's record. We consider the type of crime, how many crimes there were, how long ago the crime happened and whether the person has been honest in what they told us.

The person who needs the exemption must provide information about:

- The crime
- What they have done to change their life and obey the law
- Whether they are working, going to school, or receiving training
- Whether they have successfully completed a counseling or rehabilitation program

The person also gives us reference letters from people who aren't related to them who know about their history and their life now.

We look at all these things very carefully in making our decision on exemptions. By law this information cannot be shared with the public.

#### How to Obtain More Information

As a parent or authorized representative of a child in licensed child care, you have the right to ask the licensed child care home or center whether anyone working or living there has an exemption. If you request this information, and there is a person with an exemption, the child care home or center must tell you the person's name and how he or she is involved with the home or center and give you the name, address, and telephone number of the local licensing office. You may also get the person's name by contacting the local licensing office. You may find the address and phone number on our website. The website address is [http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/RegionalOf\\_1829.htm](http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/RegionalOf_1829.htm)