

7 AAC 57 Regulation Changes - Questions and Answers:

7 AAC 57

1. Question: We did not receive a copy of these regulations how can I get a copy?

Answer: 7 AAC 57 regulations with incorporated changes will be posted to the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx>, once published. Statutory and regulatory changes enacted by the Governor as a result of the legislative session will be formerly published on the Department of Law (DOL) website sometime in July 2016. The CCPO link above will automatically update to the revised regulations once published on the DOL website. In the interim, a *Child Care Licensing Changes and Implementation Matrix* has been created to assist you in reviewing the former as well as the adopted regulations. This document also provides information about the Department's implementation plan for these regulation changes and is posted to the CCPO website.

7 AAC 57.010

1. Question: Does this mean that licensing can come and have access to everything on my property, even if kids are not allowed in or on certain parts of my property? For example - I have 2 sheds on my property that the kids are not allowed in; will licensing now have permission to go into the sheds?

Answer: This regulation gives licensing permission to inspect all areas of the entity, including sheds and etc., on the premises regardless of children having access to those areas. However, when conducting inspections in these areas, licensing will only be looking for hazards that could affect the entity and premises.

2. Question: Please provide explanation regarding for example school facilities. Does this mean that we are responsible for all areas of the building even though we are not authorized by the district to use the whole facility, or does this pertain only to the areas designated for childcare?

Answer: This regulation gives licensing permission to inspect all areas of the entity, including the other areas of the school regardless of children having access to those areas. However, facilities located in a school are also subject to health and safety inspections by other agencies. As a result and in general, licensing will only inspect the areas accessible to children in child care but may inquire about the other inspections if concerns arise.

7 AAC 57.030

1. Question: Our agency oversees multiple Head Start sites that are Child Care Licensed, will the agency's business license or will each site be required to obtain their own business license?

2. Question: We are a local government agency running the Child Care Center. Do we have to have a business license specific to our Child Care Center?

3. Question: We are a multi-site childcare. Does this mean that a business license is required for each site or for the overarching organization?

Answer: The regulation requires all child care facilities to obtain a State of Alaska Business License. The CCPO will accept one State of Alaska Business License to meet this requirement for one overarching organization or a business with multiple child care facilities, as long as the primary or secondary line listed on the State of Alaska Business License is 62-Health Care and Social Assistance, and the primary or secondary Northern America Industry Classification System (NAICS) code listed is 624410 Child Day Care Services.

4. Question: This requires us to have a State business license, but how do we find out if the city of North Pole requires anymore information other than just the license?

Answer: Contact your city's local city and zoning department or chamber of commerce.

7 AAC 57.220

1. Question: I am the full time administrator of my facility, I occasionally have an appointment where I have an employee who is over 21 come in and care for the kids while I am at my appointment. I am confused a little by this regulation - is it saying that I cannot do that any longer if that person does not have the 24 hours training and meet all requirements of an administrator? Right now my employee only works part time so she only gets the 10 which will now require 12 hours of training. Does the new language in this regulation change that?

Answer: If your Administrator Designee only works part time, they will be required to have 12 annual training hours and all of the required paperwork, for example: employment application, references, annual evaluation, and etc.

7 AAC 57.300

1. Question: What is the reasoning behind making a caregiver be age 18 or older in a home setting?

Answer: This change was made to meet National Standards and Best Practices in Child Care. For more information see *Caring for Our Children* website at <http://cfoc.nrckids.org/>

2. Question: What is considered the "equivalent" as it relates to a bachelor's degree in certain fields?

Answer: The equivalent degree needs to be equivalent to a degree in Early Childhood Development, Child Development, or Child Psychology. **Collaboration is occurring between the CCPO and the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee to further define the regulatory language** "Equivalent" and Alaska SEED Career Ladder language "Related Fields" for alignment and consistency on what will be accepted as "equivalent" degrees. For more information on Alaska's SEED Career Ladder visit: www.seedalaska.org

3. Question: If an administrator has a qualifying bachelor's degree; do they still have to get 24 hours of training/year?

Answer: Yes. The 24 hours of annual training requirement is for all Administrators, Child Care Associates (CCAs), and Caregivers. One or more college credits obtained within the annual training year will meet the requirement for the 24 hours of annual training.

4. Question: Can you please explain this more dumbed down. I am confused. What I am taking is that if my anniversary is on 30 Jan. I have to have 24 hours by the end of this year for training hours, and then 24 by 30 Jan 2017 to be complaint for my anniversary year?

Answer: In this example the new training hour requirement would start Jan 30, 2017, and the person would need their 24 hours of annual training by January 30, 2018.

5. Question: How many training hours will a 3 credit college class count for?

Answer: Any college credit (one or more) obtained within the annual training year will meet the requirement for the 24 hours of annual training.

6. Question: Does the CDA count as college credits for administrators? If so how many college credits does it count for?

Answer: CDA does not count as college credits for licensing, unless articulated as college credits through a university system and verified through a transcript. If CDA

training is taken during the annual training year, the training hours (up to 24 hours) will count towards the required 24 hours of training for that year.

7. Question: Before applying to become a group home do you have to have 12 or 24 hours of training?

Answer: No, the training hours are not required prior to becoming a new licensed child care facility. Once licensed the annual training requirement will be 12 or 24 hours of annual training for all Caregivers depending on full or part time employment.

8. Question: Just to clarify, a Center administrator does not necessarily have to have a Bachelor's degree? Just increase in training hours?

Answer: Yes, that is correct. Annual training hours have increased to 24 hours for all Administrators, CCAs, and Caregivers. An Administrator of a Child Care Center will need to meet the education requirements of an Administrator under 7 AAC 57.300(d).

9. Question: Does Elementary Algebra count as a credit towards the qualifications of a CCA?

Answer: No, only courses in Early Childhood Development, Child Development, Child Psychology, or equivalent are accepted.

10. Question: Does a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration qualify me to be an administrator of a child care center? Does it count as one of the "equivalent" degree's?

Answer: No, a degree in Business Administration alone will not qualify you to be an administrator of a Child Care Center. The equivalent degree needs to be equivalent to a degree in Early Childhood Development, Child Development, or Child Psychology.

7 AAC 57.320

1. Question: If we have children under the age of 18 (my own) in the house, but are not providing care we are good with everything correct?

Answer: Your own children over 13 years of age do not count in the child-to-caregiver ratio. If your children are in the home but not providing care, there are no additional requirements until they turn 16 years old, at which time they are required to obtain a background check clearance.

7 AAC 57.330

1. Question: Hasn't this always been required? In what way is this a change?

Answer: Yes, same requirement. The change was to require each Child Care Associate be designated on a form prescribed by the Department.

7AAC 57.350

1. Question: Orientation and training. Could you provide a list of accepted college credits (ie: course titles) that are acceptable for training for Directors, CCA and caregivers.

Answer: The CCPO does not have a list of accepted college or course titles. Courses in Early Childhood Development, Child Development, and Child Psychology, or the equivalent are accepted. If you are unsure of whether or not a particular course may be accepted, please contact your Child Care Licensing Specialist.

2. Question: While working toward a bachelor's in ECE, administrators and CCA's will need to take classes that are general education requirements and not related to ECE. While taking those classes, will they still be required to get 24 hours of training/year? Does thread reimburse for general ed. classes?

Answer: Yes, administrators and CCAs' taking general education college courses will still be required to obtain 24 hours of training annually. Professional Development Reimbursements (PDR) offered through thread on a first come, first serve basis, only reimburse for courses in Early Childhood Development, Child Development, Child Psychology, or the equivalent.

7 AAC 57.505

1. Question: How will you monitor and enforce group homes child numbers? What time frame is there for providers to not be in compliance? Are we now expected to have a full enrollment? My enrollment fluctuates depending on the time of year and if I have someone to work for me. I am curious why this language was added? Is there concerns with Group homes not caring for more than 8 children?

Answer: Yes, there is a concern with group homes not consistently caring for more than 8 children. The intent of a group home is to regularly be serving 9 - 12 children and requiring two caregivers. Decreasing to one caregiver on a regular basis is only permissible if the requirements of (3)(A) are met and (3)(B)(i) or (ii) are applicable, or at the start or end of a given day as the children arrive or depart. A facility licensed as a

group home who after licensure is found to **not** be operating regularly as a group home will be documented as out of compliance and may face enforcement action. Demonstration of compliance will be evaluated during on-site inspections and investigation and supported through attendance records reviews, and staff and parent evaluations. If you are unsure about your particular situation, please contact your Child Care Licensing Specialist.

2. Question: As a group home, there are times we have children that separate from the facility causing us to be under 9 kids. Is that going to affect us while trying to enroll new kids to fill those spots?

Answer: This could. If this is long term (less than 9 children) will need to become a home.

3. Question: Says only one caregiver is required for 10 or fewer, including the caregivers children younger than 13 years of age, none of the total is younger than 30 months of age, and no more than two of the total are nonambulatory. Can you clarify this? If none younger than 30 months are allowed in that ratio, why does it have the no more than two nonambulatory allowed?

Answer: To allow for children with disabilities or developmental delays. These children may be over 30 months but are non-ambulatory.

7 AAC 57.550

1. Question: Some parents say, “I will bring you copy of shots records tomorrow” but sometimes do not follow through or they go to the clinic and doctor and will tell them come back Monday or tomorrow. Can one take the kids in?

Answer: Immunization records or exemption is required prior to a child being admitted to the facility.

2. Comment: On behalf of Children in Custodial or Homeless Situations, this provision is huge step in assisting in placing those children in a safe environment, such as child care facilities, for the 30 day window. Thank you for the research done to present this Child Care Chat.