

## DO I NEED A CHILD CARE FACILITY LICENSE?

If you are providing care and supervision to children in your care, chances are you need a license.

Operating without a license is a misdemeanor and subject to a \$200 per day fine. You may also be subject to criminal charges by local law enforcement.

However, there are some child care programs that are *license-exempt*.

### What is license-exempt child care?

License-exempt child care is a child care program that can legally operate without a license, and licensing standards do not apply to them. Examples of some of the types of providers who are license-exempt are:

- Relatives of a child/children being cared for (i.e., spouses, parents, adult siblings, aunts, uncles, first cousins, step-relatives and grandparents)
- Any arrangement providing care for children of only one family in addition to the operator's own children.
- Cooperative arrangements (Co-Ops) between parents for the care of their children when
  - ✓ Caregivers do not receive payment for services
  - ✓ Parents rotate responsibility for care of all of the children equally among themselves
  - ✓ Every caregiver is a parent, legal guardian, or adult relative of at least one child in the Co-Op
  - ✓ No more than 12 children are cared for at any given time by any provider/parent.
- \* • Public/private schools
- Before and after school programs/extended day care programs operated by public/private schools.
- Recreation programs operated by Boy and Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, and similar organizations
- Public recreation programs
- Organized Camps as defined in Health and Safety Code Section [18897](#).
- Certain school parenting programs or adult education child care programs.
- Temporary child care services provided to parents who are on the same premises as the site of the child day care program. *This does not include child care programs operated on the site of a ski facility, shopping mall or department store.*
- After School Education Safety Programs as defined in Education Code Section 8482 – 8484.3
- Registered Heritage Schools as defined in Education Code Section [33195](#).

The above are only examples of common situations that are considered license-exempt. It is your responsibility to determine the need for licensure under the Child Day Care Act.

### Still Unsure If You Need A License?

If you are still unsure if you need a license, or have questions regarding licensure as a child care facility, you may contact the [local Child Care Licensing Regional Office](#) in your area, or your local [California Resource and Referral Agency](#) for assistance.

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## **Do I Need a License?**

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[Types of child care programs that are license-exempt](#)

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDER?**

If you are interested in becoming a licensed child care provider and would like information, click on the link below for the type of license you are interested in.

[Family Child Care Home Licensing Information](#)

A Family Child Care Home must be in the licensee's own home. A Family Child Care Home reflects a home-like environment where non-medical care and supervision is provided for periods of less than 24 hours.

[Child Care Center Licensing Information](#)

A Child Care Center (or Day Care Center) is usually located in a commercial building. Non-medical care and supervision is provided for infant to school-age children in a group setting for periods of less than 24 hours.

### **ARE YOU PROVIDING CHILD CARE WITHOUT A LICENSE?**

- ➔ You must be licensed if you care for children from more than one family and who are not related to you.
- ➔ You don't need a license if you care for your children (or those of a relative), and children from only one other family.

If you are providing child care in either a Family Child Care Home or Child Care Center and are not licensed, you need to understand that it is against the law. Operating without a license is a misdemeanor and you could be required to pay a \$200 per day fine. You may also be subject to criminal charges by local law enforcement.

### **ARE YOU CURRENTLY LICENSED AND INTERESTED IN RECENT CHANGES IN THE LICENSING PROGRAM, IN CURRENT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, HOW TO GET FORMS, ETC.?**

[Information for Licensees](#)

### **ARE YOU LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE? DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, HOW TO EVALUATE YOUR CHILD'S DAY CARE FACILITY, OR HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT?**

[Information for Parents](#)