



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

To: Interested Parties

From: DHS Office of Policy Development

Date: May 21, 2026

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Family Child Care Home Regulations for Licensure

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, the Department of Human Services is advertising the following proposed and amended DHS rules. This rule is being amended in compliance with state and federal law and good practice.

RICR Title 218 – Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Chapter 70 – Office of Child Care Licensing
Part 2 – Family Child Care Home Regulations for Licensure

Technical revisions throughout document

Renumbered as needed

Removed references to substitutes throughout

Removed “subsequent to the promulgation of these regulations” through out

§ 2.1.2(C) Added R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-72.11 – Administrative Penalties for Child Care Licensing Violations

§ 2.1.3(A) Removed link. Changed 2005 to 2009. Added “by reference”

§ 2.1.3(C) Changed 2022 to 2019. Removed link.

§ 2.1.3(D) Removed link

§ 2.1.4(A)(8) Added definition of “Group family child care home”

§ 2.1.4(A)(11) Updated definition of “plan of corrective action”

§ 2.1.4(A)(12) Updated definition of “probationary license”

§ 2.1.4(A)(16) Added definition of “RISES”

§ 2.1.4(A)(17) Removed definition of “substitute”

§ 2.1.1(A)(3) Added language

§ 2.1.1(B)(1) Changed “at least one(1)” to “any”

§ 2.1.1(B)(2) Added language relating to “RISES”, removed “payable to the Rhode Island General Treasurer” Removed language regarding documents required for the application packet

§ 2.1.1(B)(4) Added language regarding initial licensure

§ 2.1.1(B)(7) Added language regarding incomplete initial applications

§ 2.1.1(C) Updated all language regarding license renewal

§ 2.1.1(D)(3) Removed “meet the requirements of the renewal process”, added “submit a digital renewal application in RISES”

§ 2.22(A)(7) Added “by completing a Program Closure Request in RISES.”

§ 2.22(B)(1) Removed “process” added “application in RISES”

§ 2.22(B)(1)(a) Added “digital”

§ 2.22(B)(2) Added “through the appropriate process in RISES”

§ 2.22(C)(2) Added language regarding monitoring visits

§ 2.22(D)(1)(c) changed “may be” to “is”

§ 2.22(D)(2)(e) Removed language regarding license not meeting requirements of renewal process. Added language regarding failure to provide the Department access.

§ 2.2.3(A) Removed “writing” added “RISES”

§ 2.2.3(B) Removed “written” added “formal”

§ 2.2.6 Updated language regarding holding a dual license
§ 2.3.1(A)(1)(a) Added “Life Safety Fire Inspection, completed by State Fire Marshal”
§ 2.3.1(A)(1)(b)((1)) Added “For buildings built after 1978, evidence of the construction date shall be provided.”
§ 2.3.1(D)(2)(a) Added “Providers applying for initial licensure must ensure that” Changed “must be” to “is”
§ 2.3.2(D)(1) Added “defined as any medication that can be purchased without a doctor’s prescription”
§ 2.3.2(D)(8) Added language regarding logging receipt and return of medication
§ 2.3.2(E)(4) Added language regarding documentation of health care plan
§ 2.3.2(G)(3)(g) Added “vaping”
§ 2.3.2(G)(3)(h) Added “or vaping”
§ 2.3.2(G)(4) Added “or vaping”
§ 2.3.2(G)(5) Added “or other controlled substances”
§ 2.3.2(M)(1) Added language regarding the emergency preparedness and response plan
§ 2.3.2(N)(4) Added “and must be visible by the staff sitting with children while eating.”
§ 2.3.3(A)(7) Added “in programs that enroll infants”
§ 2.3.4(A)(2)(a) Updated language
§ 2.3.4(A)(4) Removed language
§ 2.3.4(B)(1) Added “assistant on site”
§ 2.3.4(B)(2) Added “assistant on site”
§ 2.3.4(B)(2)(c) Changed “should” to “must”
§ 2.3.4(B)(2)(d) Removed language
§ 2.3.4(B)(3) Added language regarding Group Family Child Care Home
§ 2.3.4(B)(4) Updated chart
§ 2.3.4(C)(3)(a) Added “out of home request application in RISES” Removed “written plan”
§ 2.3.4(D)(1)(g) Updated language regarding supervision
§ 2.3.5(B) Added “requirements for Group Family Child Care Home providers”
§ 2.3.5(D)(2) Added “are only responsible for emergency care”
§ 2.3.6(A)(1) Removed “in writing” added “via RISES”
§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(a) Added language regarding change of assistants
§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(b) Added “by submitting a Change of Household Member application”
§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(c) Added “by submitting a Name Change Request application”
§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(d) Added “by submitting a Change of Address application”
§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(e) Added “and/or intent to change the number of children served by submitting a Change of Capacity application”
§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(f) Removed “intents to change the numbers or ages of children served”
§ 2.3.6(A)(9) Removed “and substitute file” Added “have a complete workforce registry profile in RISES that” and updated requirements needed in the complete workforce registry

These proposed rules are accessible on the DHS website (<https://dhs.ri.gov/regulations/proposed-rules-regulations-hearings>), the RI Secretary of State website (<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/Part/218-70-00-2>), and available in hard copy upon request (401-462-3015 or RI Relay, dial 711). **A public hearing will be held to consider the proposed amendments on Monday, June 8, 2026 at 5:00pm at the Louis Pasteur Building, 25 Howard Avenue, Bldg. 57, Cranston, RI 02920, in the West Wing Conference Room.** Persons wishing to testify may do so by signing up at the hearing or by submitting written testimony no later than 11:59pm on June 20, 2026 to Tara Borges, Office of Policy Development, Department of Human Services, Hazard Building, 41 West Road, Bldg. 74, Cranston, RI 02920 or DHS.PolicyFeedBack@dhs.ri.gov.

The seating capacity of the West Wing Conference Room will be enforced and therefore the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer, in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The Louis Pasteur Building is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals with hearing impairments may request an interpreter’s presence by calling 711 or Relay RI 1-800-745-6575 (Voice) and 1-800-745-5555 (TDD). Requests for this service must be made at least 72 hours in advance of the Hearing date. The Department of Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.