Child Care Licensing responsibilities include:

- Regulating all child-care operations and child-placing agencies to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children in care, largely by reducing the risk of injury, abuse, and communicable disease.
- Establishing and monitoring operations and agencies for compliance with licensing standards, rules, and law.
- Informing parents and the public about child care and about the histories of specific homes, child-care operations, and child-placing agencies in complying with minimum standards of care.
- Providing technical assistance to providers on meeting licensing standards, rules, and law.

Residential Child Care Licensing

Residential Child Care Licensing operations include **Child Placing Agencies** which verify foster family homes with 1-6 children & foster group homes with 7-12 children; and **General Residential Operations** (GROs) which provide care for 13 or more children. **Foster homes** provide care to children in the caregiver's primary residence, while GROs are staffed operations.

- **General Residential Operations** provide 24-hour care for 13 or more children under 18 years old and may offer programmatic services such as transitional living or emergency care or may offer treatment services such as for emotional disorders or primary medical needs. Residential Treatment Centers are a subset of General Residential Operations that serve only children needing treatment services for emotional disorders.
- **Child Placing Agencies** are persons or organizations other than a child's natural parent or guardian who plan for placement of a child or place a child in a child care operation, foster home or adoptive home.
- **Foster Family Homes** provide 24-hour care for 6 or fewer children under 18 years old.
- **Foster Group Homes** provide 24-hour care for 7 to 12 children under 18 years old.

Day Care Licensing

Day Care Licensing operations include:

- **Licensed Child-Care Centers** provide care for seven or more children under 14 years old for less than 24 hours per day at a location other than the permit holder's home.
- **Before and After-School Programs** and **School-Age Programs** provide care for children who attend prekindergarten through grade six at a location other than the permit holder's home.
- **Licensed Child Care Homes** provide care for less than 24 hours per day for 7-12 children under 14 years old in the permit holder's own home.
- **Registered Child Care Homes** provide care in the caregiver's home for up to six children under age 14; they may also take in up to six more school-age children. The number of children allowed in a home is determined by the ages of the children and may not exceed 12.
- **Listed Family Homes** provide care in the caregiver's home for 1-3 unrelated children less than 14 years of age. They are not inspected unless a report is received alleging child abuse/neglect, an immediate risk of danger to the health or safety of a child, and/or if providing child care subject to regulation.

To view the minimum standard requirements for each type of child care operation or home go to:

- *Texas Administrative Code Chapter 744 for Before or After-School Programs and School-Age Programs:* *http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/744_School-age.pdf*
- *Texas Administrative Code Chapter 746 for Licensed Child Care Centers:* *http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/746_Centers.pdf*
- *Texas Administrative Code Chapter 747 for Licensed and Registered Child Care Homes:* *http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/747_Homes.pdf*
- *Texas Administrative Code Chapter 748 for General Residential Operations:* http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/748_GRO.pdf
- *Texas Administrative Code Chapter 749 for Child Placing Agencies:* http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/749_CPA.pdf

To look up or search for a regulated child care operation visit **Search Texas Child Care** at:
http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/default.asp

For a list of all local Child Care Licensing offices please visit:
http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Local_Child_Care_Licensing_Offices/default.asp

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