199.896 License requirement -- Application -- Fee -- Emergency action -- Use of information -- Hearing -- Disposition of receipts -- Advertisement -- Unannounced inspections -- Orientation and training requirements -- Prohibition against use of corporal physical discipline.

(1) No person, association, or organization shall conduct, operate, maintain, or advertise any child-care center without obtaining a license as provided in KRS 199.892 to 199.896.

(2) The secretary may promulgate administrative regulations pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A relating to license fees and may establish standards of care and service for a child-care center, criteria for the denial of a license if criminal records indicate convictions that may impact the safety and security of children in care, and procedures for enforcement of penalties.

(3) Each initial application for a license shall be made to the cabinet and shall be accompanied by a fee of not more than fifty dollars ($50) and shall be renewable annually upon expiration and reapplication when accompanied by a fee of twenty-five dollars ($25). Regular licenses and renewals thereof shall expire one (1) year from their effective date.

(4) No child-care center shall be refused a license or have its license revoked for failure to meet standards set by the secretary until after the expiration of a period not to exceed six (6) months from the date of the first official notice that the standards have not been met. If, however, the cabinet has probable cause to believe that an immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare exists, the cabinet may take emergency action pursuant to KRS 13B.125. All administrative hearings conducted under authority of KRS 199.892 to 199.896 shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.

(5) If, upon inspection or investigation, the inspector general finds that a child-care center licensed under this section has violated the administrative regulations, standards, or requirements of the cabinet, the inspector general shall issue a statement of deficiency to the center containing:

(a) A statement of fact;

(b) A statement of how an administrative regulation, standard, or requirement of the cabinet was violated; and

(c) The timeframe, negotiated with the child-care center, within which a violation is to be corrected, except that a violation that poses an immediate threat to the health, safety, or welfare of children in the center shall be corrected in no event later than five (5) working days from the date of the statement of deficiency.

(6) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services, in consultation with the Office of the Inspector General, shall establish by administrative regulations promulgated in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A an informal dispute resolution process containing at least two (2) separate levels of review through which a child-care provider may dispute licensure deficiencies that have an adverse effect on the child-care provider's license.

(7) A child-care center shall have the right to appeal to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services under KRS Chapter 13B any action adverse to its license or the assessment of a civil penalty issued by the inspector general as the result

of a violation contained in a statement of deficiency within twenty (20) days of the issuance of the action or assessment of the civil penalty. An appeal shall not act to stay the correction of a violation.

(8) In assessing the civil penalty to be levied against a child-care center for a violation contained in a statement of deficiency issued under this section, the inspector general or the inspector general's designee shall take into consideration the following factors:

(a) The gravity of the threat to the health, safety, or welfare of children posed by the violation;

(b) The number and type of previous violations of the child-care center;

(c) The reasonable diligence exercised by the child-care center and efforts to correct the violation; and

(d) The amount of assessment necessary to assure immediate and continued compliance.

(9) Upon a child-care center s failure to take action to correct a violation of the administrative regulations, standards, or requirements of the cabinet contained in a statement of deficiency, or at any time when the operation of a child-care center poses an immediate threat to the health, safety, or welfare of children in the center, and the child-care center continues to operate after the cabinet has taken emergency action to deny, suspend, or revoke its license, the cabinet or the cabinet's designee shall take at least one (1) of the following actions against the center:

(a) Institute proceedings to obtain an order compelling compliance with the administrative regulations, standards, and requirements of the cabinet;

(b) Institute injunctive proceedings in Circuit Court to terminate the operation of the center;

(c) Institute action to discontinue payment of child-care subsidies; or

(d) Suspend or revoke the license or impose other penalties provided by law.

(10) Upon request of any person, the cabinet shall provide information regarding the denial, revocation, suspension, or violation of any type of child-care center license of the operator. Identifying information regarding children and their families shall remain confidential.

(11) The cabinet shall provide, upon request, public information regarding the inspections of and the plans of correction for the child-care center within the past year. All information distributed by the cabinet under this subsection shall include a statement indicating that the reports as provided under this subsection from the past five (5) years are available from the child-care center upon the parent's, custodian's, guardian's, or other interested person's request.

(12) All fees collected under the provisions of KRS 199.892 to 199.896 for license and certification applications shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to a special fund for the purpose of administering KRS 199.892 to 199.896 including the payment of expenses of and to the participants in child-care workshops. The funds collected are hereby appropriated for the use of the cabinet. The balance of the special fund shall lapse to the general fund at the end of each biennium.

(13) Any advertisement for child-care services shall include the address of where the service is being provided.

(14) All inspections of licensed and unlicensed child-care centers by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall be unannounced.

(15) All employees and owners of a child-care center who provide care to children shall demonstrate within the first three (3) months of employment completion of at least a total of six (6) hours of orientation in the following areas:

(a) Basic health, safety, and sanitation;

(b) Recognizing and reporting child abuse; and

(c) Developmentally appropriate child-care practice.

(16) All employees and owners of a child-care center who provide care to children shall annually demonstrate to the department completion of at least six (6) hours of training in child development. These hours shall include but are not limited to one and one-half (1.5) hours one (1) time every five (5) years of continuing education in the recognition and prevention of pediatric abusive head trauma, as defined in KRS 620.020. Training in recognizing pediatric abusive head trauma may be designed in collaboration with organizations and agencies that specialize in the prevention and recognition of pediatric head trauma approved by the secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services The one and one-half (1.5) hours required under this section shall be included in the current number of required continuing education hours.

(17) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall make available either through the development or approval of a model training curriculum and training materials, including video instructional materials, to cover the areas specified in subsection (15) of this section. The cabinet shall develop or approve the model training curriculum and training materials to cover the areas specified in subsection (15) of this section.

(18) Child-care centers licensed pursuant to this section and family child-care homes certified pursuant to KRS 199.8982 shall not use corporal physical discipline, including the use of spanking, shaking, or paddling, as a means of punishment, discipline, behavior modification, or for any other reason. For the purposes of this section, "corporal physical discipline" means the deliberate infliction of physical pain and does not include spontaneous physical contact which is intended to protect a child from immediate danger.

(19) Directors and employees of child-care centers in a position that involves supervisory or disciplinary power over a minor, or direct contact with a minor, shall submit to a criminal record check in accordance with KRS 17.165. The application shall be denied if the applicant has been found by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or a court to have abused or neglected a child or has been convicted of a violent crime or sex crime as defined in KRS 17.165.

(20) A director or employee of a child-care center may be employed on a probationary status pending receipt of the criminal background check. Application for the criminal record of a probationary employee shall be made no later than the date probationary employment begins.

Effective: July 15, 2010

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Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 99, sec. 48, effective June 20, 2005. -- Amended 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 308, sec. 18, effective July 14, 2000. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 426, sec. 157, effective July 15, 1998; and ch. 524, sec. 2, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1996 Ky. Acts ch. 318, sec. 90, effective July 15, 1996. -- Amended 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 131, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1994. Amended 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 57, sec. 4, effective July 14, 1980. -- Amended 1982 Ky. Acts ch. 247, sec. 5, effective July 15, 1982. -- Amended 1980 Ky. Acts ch. 188, sec. 187, effective July 15, 1980. -- Amended 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 203, sec. 1, effective June 17, 1978. -- Amended 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 74, Art. VI, sec. 107(21). -- Created 1962 Ky. Acts ch. 196, sec. 3.