

## **Frequently Asked Questions: Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH)**

- **Do I have to own the home in which I plan to license a FCCLH?** *You do not have to own the residence in which you plan to operate the FCCLH; however, if you do not own the home, a current lease agreement with the landlord must be submitted with the FCCLH application.*
- **Does a Home Owners Association (HOA) need to provide a letter?** *If an applicant lives in a neighborhood where there is an (HOA), a letter from the HOA will need to be submitted stating the home owner can run a business/child care.*
- **If my zoning letter says I can keep up to six (6) children, can I still care for two (2) additional children ages three (3) years and older for two (2) hours a day?** *You cannot exceed a total of six (6) children at any given time.*
- **Is a fire inspection by the county required?** *You will need to contact the county Fire Marshal's Office to determine if your jurisdiction requires a fire inspection. All counties differ in what they require, so call your county's Fire Marshal's Office.*
- **The City/County I live in said they will not issue a business license until I get the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) license. What do I do?** *A letter from the Business License Office stating the business license will be issued after they receive the DECAL license will suffice.*
- **Do I need a water/sewer bill?** *Yes, if your home is on water/sewer services, a current (within the last 12 months) water/sewer bill will need to be submitted. If you are on well water or a septic tank, an environmental health report from the county stating the water is safe for drinking and the septic tank is in good repair will need to be submitted.*
- **If I change locations, do I need to go through the licensing process again?** *Yes, if you move locations, a licensing application must be submitted to the department. Please note, the license is nontransferable, and you will be required to reduce to two (2) children until you become licensed at the new location.*
- **Does the Licensing Orientation Meeting (LOM) certificate expire?** *No, there is no expiration date on the certificate; however, it is recommended that the class be taken again if you haven't submitted an application within two (2) years of initially taking the class as information, rules and regulations are updated.*
- **Is my spouse required to have a Criminal Backgrounds Check (CBC) through DECAL?** *Yes, anyone residing in the home that is 17 years old or older must have a CBC through DECAL. This would include: spouse, children, relatives, friends, etc. Please also keep in mind that if your spouse or family members travel for work, they are still required to have a CBC.*
- **Where do I find the required trainings and how many hours do I need prior to submitting an application?** *Trainings can be found at the Georgia Professional Development System (GAPDS) website: [www.gapds.decal.ga.gov](http://www.gapds.decal.ga.gov). Ten (10) Preservice training hours are required prior to submitting an application. Two (2) hours of training are required in the following areas: Early*

*Learning Standards, Communication, Professional and Leadership Development, Business Management, Advocacy for parent, children and staff in the FCCLH. In addition to the ten (10) hours of preservice training, it will be required to submit a Family Child Care Learning Home LOM certificate and current first aid and CPR cards/certificates.*

- **Are there any scholarships available to help pay for education credentials?** Please visit <https://www.decalscholars.com/> to get answers to a variety of educational questions, including available scholarship funding.
- **Does my FCCLH need to be separate from my living quarters?** *No, the FCCLH can be in the living areas of the home if there are equipment and toys that are age appropriate for children available. All hazards should be kept out of reach of the children.*
- **Am I required to have an outdoor play area that need to be enclosed?** *Yes, an outdoor play area is required. The outdoor play area will need to have a four (4) foot barrier enclosing it. Please note, the four-foot barrier must be in good repair, be sturdy, and be free from hazards.*
- **Can I have a FCCLH in an apartment complex?** *Yes, a FCCLH can be in an apartment complex. The leasing office of the complex must provide written approval of your business. An outdoor play area is also required, so be sure you have an enclosed outdoor play area for only your business. Typically, the apartment complex playground will not suffice as monitoring others on the playground and equipment must be taken into consideration.*
- **Can a provider have confined animals in the licensed child care area?** *Yes, the animals must be confined during the hours of operation of the FCCLH. Unconfined pets shall not be permitted in the child care area. Please also note that current vaccinations of the animals must be available on site.*
- **How do I sign up for Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)?** *Once you become licensed with DECAL, you may apply to participate in the CAPS program. Please visit [www.CAPS.decal.ga.gov](http://www.CAPS.decal.ga.gov)*