



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
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GOVERNOR

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Child Care Providers

FROM: Kristie Lewis
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Licensing

RE: CLARIFICATION: Babies Can't Wait Staff Not Required to Undergo Background Checks through DECAL

DATE: July 2, 2015

DECAL has learned that in some cases Babies Can't Wait (BCW) personnel have been denied access to children in child care programs because they could not show they had completed a national, fingerprint-based background check through DECAL. We appreciate your diligence in wanting to comply with Georgia law and child care licensing rules and regulations, but I am writing to clarify the status of BCW workers.

BCW personnel are not considered employees of the licensed child care program and are there under a contractual agreement with a child's family. Because of these factors, BCW personnel are not covered under the Georgia law that governs the operation of licensed child care programs, and therefore **are not required to undergo the fingerprint-based background check requirements under that law.**

BCW is a program administered through the Georgia Department of Public Health that provides a coordinated, comprehensive, and integrated system of services for infants and toddlers with special needs, birth to three, and their families. This program allows for services to be provided directly to a specific child, and, although services are sometimes provided **at** a child care facility, the services are not provided **to** the child care facility.

So, please cooperate with BCW personnel when they come to your program to serve eligible infants and toddlers. Working together, we are enhancing the well-being of Georgia's youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

If you have any questions about this exception to the background check requirements, contact your child care licensing consultant.