

Operable Telephone

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.25(18) Telephone. An operable telephone shall be readily available in the Center and the following emergency numbers must be posted in a conspicuous place next to the telephone: physician or hospital; county health department; regional poison control Center; all emergency numbers or numbers of local ambulance service, fire and police departments.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.11(2)(b) An operable telephone shall be readily available in the Home with the following telephone numbers posted in a conspicuous place next to the telephone: a physician or hospital, an ambulance or rescue squad service, the local fire department, the local police department, the county health department and the regional poison control center. In those areas of the state serviced by the 911 emergency number, 911 may be posted in lieu of the phone numbers required for ambulance, fire and police.

Rule Type: Non-Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To protect children's safety. To comply with Georgia law.

Clarification

An on-site, operable telephone allows parents to contact the Home or Center and communicate with staff when needed and allows staff to promptly notify parents and the appropriate personnel in case of an emergency. Georgia law (O.C.G.A. 20-1A-10(g)) requires the telephone numbers for local providers of emergency medical, police, and fire services be posted in a conspicuous place next to the Home's or Center's telephones.

Since it is easy to panic in an emergency situation, providers need immediate access to the phone numbers for emergency personnel. The list of emergency telephone numbers should be clearly visible to staff and posted at each telephone. In areas serviced by the 911 emergency number, 911 may be posted instead of individual phone numbers for police, fire, and ambulance.

Indicators

- ✓ Child care programs must have an operable phone on the premises that is readily available.
 - Organizational TIP: Maintain an operable telephone in a central location for easy access by staff.
 - TIP: Have a fully charged, working cell phone for contacting parents during emergency situations, such as evacuation of the program.
 - Reminder: A land-line corded telephone is not battery operated and will work during power outages. Cordless and cell phones are powered by electricity or batteries and are not always reliable. Fiber or internet-based service will have limited availability during a power outage even if used with a traditional corded telephone.

- ✓ Child care programs must post emergency telephone numbers near each telephone.
 - Note: Ensure the emergency numbers are specific and applicable to the child care program's location.

- TIP: The sample emergency numbers form can be found on Bright from the Start's website at: <http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/PostedNotices-Emerg.pdf>
- Reminder: Listing numbers on the inside cover of a telephone book is not acceptable since the book could be easily misplaced or removed from the area near the telephone.

Resources:

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org>