

# Exemptions Rule Changes

## Effective October 1, 2024 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



### ***What are the new exemption rule categories effective October 1, 2024?***

An explanation of changes to the Exemption categories may be viewed at [New vs Old Exemption Categories Effective October 1, 2024](#).

### ***Why do I need to complete the self-assessment?***

The self-assessment should be completed to ensure the program is operating in which it was initially approved. It is encouraged that every exempt program completes the self-assessment. The self-assessment will be available on October 1, 2024.

### ***Where do I access the exemption self-assessment?***

The exemption self-assessment may be accessed through your [DECAL KOALA](#) account or at the [Exemptions webpage](#) on the [DECAL](#) website.

### ***What documents are needed for the self-assessment?***

There are no documents needed for the self-assessment. It is an online self-assessment with no submission of documents.

### ***Will I receive an exemption certificate after I complete the self-assessment?***

No, a certificate will not be issued for completing the self-assessment. A print screen option will be available for programs to print once they have finished the self-assessment.

### ***What programs continue to submit exemption applications?***

Exemption categories 1-Government Owned and Operated, 5-Licensed Faith Based, and 7-Camp and School Break programs will continue to submit applications via [DECAL KOALA](#). Please note that only categories 1 and 7 will submit applications that want to participate in Child and Parent Services (CAPS).

### ***Where do I apply for an exemption?***

An exemption application can be found by creating an account or logging into an existing account on [DECAL KOALA](#).

### ***What happens if a facility operates more than one type of program?***

The facility will need to complete a self-assessment for each type of program to determine self-assessment status. An example of this would be a private school that also operates a Pre-K program for more than four hours a day.

### ***What happens to current exemption categories 1 and 7 that do not receive CAPS?***

Those exemptions will remain open unless the program decides to close. This allows for these programs to apply for CAPS if desired.

### ***Will category 13: No Pay, be required to apply for an exemption or license?***

No Pay programs do not meet the DECAL definition for a child care program, therefore does not require a license or an exemption.

### ***Can you further explain the parameters around category 4: Short Term care?***

Children of any age can attend a program for a maximum of four hours a day. This excludes before and after school programs, which may need to be licensed and should complete the self-assessment.

### ***What will happen to my exemption on October 1, 2024?***

Approved exemptions will be migrated into the new exemption categories and programs will be responsible for completing the self-assessment to deem the program's exemption status. Programs are encouraged to complete the self-assessment as soon as possible.

On February 1, 2025, all programs should have completed the self-assessment. Only programs that are categories, 1-Government Owned and Operated, 5-Licensed Faith Based, and 7-Camp and School Break programs will remain open, as other categories will be closed. Programs should continue to complete the self-assessment if their programming has changed, or a new service has been added.

### ***Does this affect licensing programs and where can additional information be found on applying for a license?***

The new exemption rules do not affect licensed programs. To find out more information about the licensing process, please visit this link: [Starting a Child Care Program](#).

***As a reminder, it is the responsibility of the program to ensure compliance with all additional regulations set forth by the state, locality, municipalities, or other governing agencies. This includes notifying and obtaining approval from all related entities involved in child care operations within a building. The duty of notifying and obtaining appropriate approvals is on the operator of the said child care program. Questions? Please email [ExemptionRuleChanges@decalfga.gov](mailto:ExemptionRuleChanges@decalfga.gov)***