



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-5957

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

Amy M. Jacobs
COMMISSIONER

December 12, 2016

Dear Child Care Provider:

As part of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014, rules were adopted to help strengthen the foundation of health and safety for children in out-of-home environments. In October those rules went into effect in Georgia for all licensed child care programs. The revised rules require all staff with direct care responsibilities to complete Health & Safety Orientation training plus CPR & First aid training (if not currently certified). New staff members hired on or after October 1, 2016 must obtain the Health & Safety Orientation and CPR/First aid training within 90 days of employment. Staff that were hired before October 1, 2016 must complete the Health & Safety Orientation training and CPR and First Aid training (if not currently certified) by June 30, 2017.

DECAL is providing a free online module for the Health & Safety Orientation through Pennsylvania State University that is available now at <http://extension.psu.edu/youth/betterkidcare/on-demand>. First, sign in to the On Demand option, and then choose the module called "Georgia Health and Safety Orientation Training (for Georgia child care providers only)". You can also find additional training options at: <https://www.training.decgal.ga.gov/> (search "Health & Safety Orientation").

The new Health & Safety Orientation training:

- does not replace the initial staff orientation or first year training topics ("basic 6"), which are still required by the rules;
- only has to be completed one time (does not have to be renewed); and
- can be used toward meeting the requirement for annual training hours.

Note: Staff are encouraged to enter all completed training information in the Georgia Professional Development System (GA PDS).

An informational webinar, which will provide an overview of the training requirements, will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can register for the webinar at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1259192981156498436>.

If you have questions about the new training requirements, please contact your licensing consultant, e-mail ChildCareServices@decgal.ga.gov, or call 404-657-5562 to speak to an intake consultant.

Best regards,

Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services