

Summary of Revisions for Informal Health & Safety Standards

August 17, 2026

This document summarizes changes to the Informal Health and Safety Standards and is intended to assist providers in understanding new requirements, revised language, and compliance expectations.

*This document was created with the assistance of AI.

Chapter A. Activities

- General language revisions throughout the chapter.
- Emphasis on developmentally appropriate activities.
- Clarification of staff responsibilities for providing individualized attention and safe interactions with children.

Chapter B. Bathrooms

- General language revisions throughout the chapter.
- Clarification of bathroom accessibility, cleanliness, and required supplies.

Chapter C. Children's Records

- General language revisions throughout the chapter.
- **Medical Information**
 - Child records shall include documentation of:
 - o Allergies
 - o Known medical conditions
 - o Other health concerns impacting care
 - o Immunizations
 - o Parental agreement for transportation, swimming and other activities away from the home

- **Emergency Medical Authorization**
 - Children's records shall include written authorization for emergency medical treatment when the parent is unavailable.
- **Transportation and Activity Permissions**
 - Child records shall include parental agreements for:
 - o Transportation
 - o Swimming activities
 - o Other activities away from the home
- **CAPS Attendance Records**
 - All CAPS providers shall maintain original and accurate arrival and departure records for a minimum of three (3) years from the last date service was provided. Documentation must include:
 - o Date
 - o Child's full name
 - o Arrival time
 - o Departure time
 - o Parent or authorized person's signature or initials
- Records must be available to the Department by electronic or written form upon request.

Chapter D. Criminal Records Check

- General language revisions throughout the chapter.
- Clarification that Comprehensive Records Check includes FBI fingerprints, sex offender registry, child abuse registry, and state criminal history reviews for current and prior states of residence (past 5 years).
- Determinations expire after 5 years and must be renewed after an 180-day employment break. Portability is allowed during the prior twelve months from the hire date.
- Employees must have a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check before hiring.
- Provisional Employees must have a satisfactory fingerprint check, remain under supervision, and obtain a Comprehensive Records Check before becoming permanent.
- Students-in-Training may use portable fingerprint or comprehensive determinations if eligibility requirements are met.
- Individuals with unsatisfactory determinations cannot be present or reside in the home while children are in care.
- Records check documentation must be maintained through employment/residency plus one year.
- Providers must ensure provisional employees submit required out-of-state criminal history and child abuse registry information.
- Rechecks are required every 5 years, after certain arrests/charges, following an 180-day employment lapse, or when requested by the Department.

Chapter E. Discipline

- General language revisions.
- Clarification of acceptable disciplinary practices.
- Reinforcement of prohibitions against harmful or inappropriate discipline methods.

Chapter F. Equipment and Toys

- All indoor equipment and furniture:
 - o Shall be used only by appropriate age groups of children as indicated by the manufacturer's instructions.
 - o Must be maintained in a safe condition.
 - o Must be used according to intended purpose.

Chapter G. First Aid and CPR

- General language revisions.
- **First Aid Kits**
 - The home and any transportation vehicle must maintain a first aid kit with required items referenced in the standards.

Chapter H. Hygiene

- **Handwashing Requirements**
 - o **Children:** Wash hands upon arrival; before/after meals and food handling; and after outdoor play, water/sand play, toileting/diapering, animal contact, bodily fluid exposure, or any contamination.
 - o **Staff:** Wash hands upon children's arrival; before/after diapering, food preparation, medication administration, eating, bottle preparation, and feeding assistance; and after outdoor play, toileting assistance, tobacco use, garbage handling, animal contact, bodily fluid exposure, or any contamination.

Chapter I. Medications

- General language revisions.
- Clarification of medication administration requirements.
- Clarification of medication storage procedures.
- Reinforcement of documentation requirements.

Chapter J. Policies and Procedures

- General language revisions.
- **Providers Must Have Written Policies For:**
 - o Communicable illness exclusion, readmission, and notifications
 - o Child illness parent notification
 - o Choking and allergy prevention
 - o Shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma prevention
 - o Bodily fluid and hazardous material handling
 - o Child abuse and neglect recognition and reporting
 - o Transportation procedures
 - o Discipline and behavior management
 - o Emergency medical procedures
 - o Medication administration and adverse reaction reporting
 - o Safe sleep and SIDS risk reduction practice

Chapter K. Personnel Records

- General language revisions.
- Clarification of personnel file requirements and record retention.

Chapter L. Physical Plant

- **Fire Safety**
 - o Smoke detectors are required on each floor.
 - o At least one 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguisher is required in child care areas.
- **Heating and Cooling Equipment**
 - o Equipment creating potential hazards must be inaccessible to children or protected by barriers.
- **Telephone Access**
 - o Operable telephone required.
 - o Emergency numbers must be posted and readily accessible.
- **Electrical Outlets**
 - o Child-accessible outlets must be plugged or covered.
- **Cleanliness**
 - o Home must remain clean and in good repair.
 - o Vermin prevention measures are required.

Chapter M. Playgrounds

- General language revisions.
- **Playground Equipment and Materials**
 - Equipment must:
 - o Be age-appropriate.
 - o Be used according to manufacturer instructions.
 - o Be maintained free from rust, splinters, sharp edges, and hazards.
 - o Be arranged to support effective supervision.
 - o Have resilient surfacing beneath climbing and swinging equipment.

Chapter N. Staffing and Supervision

- General language revisions.
- **Supervision Requirements**
 - o At least one individual with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination must supervise children at all times.
 - o Staff must maintain active supervision during indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, rest periods, transportation, and field trips.
 - o Staff must be positioned to hear and see children at all times.
 - o Emergency staffing plans must be established.
- **Compliance with Laws**
 - Providers, Employees, and Provisional Employees:
 - o Must comply with all applicable laws.
 - o Must not commit criminal acts in the presence of children.
- **Performance Standards**
 - o All personnel must be capable of performing duties necessary for the care and supervision of children.

Chapters O-R

- **General Language Revisions**
 - o Chapter O: Staff Training
 - o Chapter P: Swimming Pools and Water-related Activities
 - o Chapter Q: Transportation
 - o Chapter R: Field Trips

Chapter S. Required Reporting

- **Report Within 24 Hours or the Next Work Day**
 - o Death of a child in care.
 - o Serious illness or injury.
 - o Missing child incidents.
 - o Fire.
 - o Structural disasters.
 - o Emergency relocations.
- **Availability of Records**
 - Providers must make available:
 - o Audio recordings
 - o Video recordings
 - o Photographs
 - o Written documentation
 - o Social media content
 - o Electronic records
- **Criminal Records Reporting**
 - Providers must report:
 - o Arrests
 - o Changes in criminal records check status
- **Child Abuse Reporting**
 - Providers must report suspected:
 - o Abuse
 - o Neglect
 - o Deprivation
- **Communicable Disease Reporting**
 - Providers must report:
 - o COVID-19
 - o Tuberculosis
 - o Measles
 - o Other reportable diseases or public health emergency illnesses

Chapter T. Diapering

- Handwashing sinks adjacent to diapering area.
- Proper diaper-changing surfaces required.
- Diapering areas cannot be used for food preparation.
- Hazardous items must remain out of children's reach.
- Soiled diapers and linens must be placed in closed containers.

Chapter U. Safe Sleep Requirements

- Safety-approved cribs or approved infant sleep equipment.
- Appropriate crib mattresses and fitted sheets.
- Infants must be placed on their backs to sleep unless medical documentation authorizes another position.
- Safe sleep environments consistent with AAP, ASTM, and CPSC recommendations.
- Restrictions on blankets, toys, bumper pads, and other soft items.
- Cribs and sleep equipment must be maintained in safe condition.
- Stack cribs and drop-side cribs are prohibited.
- Infant wedges, positioning devices, and monitors require a physician's written authorization with usage instructions and time frames.
- Infants must sleep only in an approved or infant slept equipment and be moved there immediately if they fall asleep elsewhere.