

Summary of Revisions for Exempt Programs – August 1, 2026

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

*This document was created with the assistance of AI.

Chapters A. Activities, B. Bathrooms, E. Discipline, K. Personnel Records, P. Staff Training, S. Field Trips

- General language revisions and clarifications only.

Chapter C. Children's Records

➤ New/Clarified Requirements

- Maintain complete authorized pick-up information for individuals approved to receive a child.
- Obtain written authorization for emergency medical treatment when a parent is unavailable.
- 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
- All records must be available to the Department by electronic or written form upon request.

Chapter D. Criminal Records Checks

- Clarification that a 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).
- Directors and employees must have a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check before beginning work.

- Provisional employees must have a satisfactory fingerprint check and be supervised continuously by an employee with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check.
- Determinations expire after 5 years and must be renewed. Determinations must also be renewed if there is an 180-day break in employment. Portability is allowed during the preceding twelve months from the hire date.
- Records must be maintained throughout employment/residency plus one year.
- Individuals with unsatisfactory determinations cannot be present while children are in care.

Chapter F. Equipment and Toys

➤ Clarified Requirements

- Indoor equipment and furniture must be age-appropriate and used as indicated in the manufacturer's instructions.

Chapter G. First Aid and CPR

➤ New/Clarified Requirements

- First aid kits are required in all program buildings and transportation vehicles.
- Kits must contain specified emergency supplies and be accessible to staff but not children.

Chapter H. Hygiene

➤ Expanded Handwashing Requirements

- **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.
- **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 J. Policies and Procedures

➤ Written Policies Must Address

- Transportation procedures, including when no one is available to receive a transported child.
- Communicable illness readmission
- Medication administration and adverse reaction notifications.
- Medical emergency procedures.
- Safe sleep and SIDS risk reduction practices.

Chapter L. Physical Plant

➤ Safety Requirements

- Accessible electrical outlets must be covered or protected.
- Heating and cooling equipment must be inaccessible to children.
- Programs must maintain an operable telephone with posted emergency contact numbers.

Chapter M. Playgrounds

➤ Safety Clarifications

- Equipment must be age-appropriate, properly maintained, hazard-free, and positioned to allow clear supervision of children.
- Climbing and swinging equipment must be anchored and have protective surfacing in fall zones.

Chapter N. Staff Requirements

➤ Clarified Requirements

- Staff must comply with all applicable laws.
- Staff must be capable of providing appropriate care and supervision.

Chapter O. Staff: Child Ratios and Supervision

➤ Enhanced Supervision Requirements

- At least one staff member with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check must supervise children at all times.
- Supervision applies during all activities, transportation, field trips, meals, and rest periods.
- Emergency staffing plans must be maintained.

Chapter Q. Swimming Pools and Water-related Activities

➤ Clarified Requirements

- Supervision requirements for a water depth of two feet.
- Swimming facilities must comply with local regulations.
- Written parental permission is required before a child participates in swimming activities.

Chapter R. Transportation

➤ New/Clarified Requirements

- Vehicles may not exceed manufacturer seating capacity.

- Seats must be securely fastened to the vehicle.
- Vehicles must contain a working fire extinguisher, which is inaccessible to children.
- Required vehicle checks must be conducted after every trip to ensure no child remains on board.
- Transportation requirements apply to all transportation arranged by the program.
- Programs must have an emergency transportation plan.

Chapter T. Required Reporting

- **Report Within 24 Hours or Next Workday**
 - Suspected child abuse, neglect, or deprivation.
 - Serious injuries, illnesses, deaths, missing children, fires, and emergency relocations.
 - Arrests or changes in background check status.
 - Communicable diseases such as COVID-19, tuberculosis, measles, and other reportable illnesses.
- Programs must make all records, photos, videos, electronic records, and documentation available to the Department upon request.

Chapter U. Diapering

- **Clarified Requirements**
 - Only approved diaper-changing surfaces may be used.
 - Diapering stations must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
 - Children may never be left unattended during diapering.
 - Hazardous items must remain out of children's reach.
 - Soiled diapers and linens must be disposed of in closed containers.

Chapter V. Safe Sleep Requirements

- **Enhanced Safe Sleep Standards**
 - Stack cribs and drop-side cribs are prohibited.
 - Positioning devices may only be used with written physician's authorization, detailing use of device and length of time to be used.
 - Infants must only sleep in safety approved cribs.
 - Sleeping infants must be immediately removed from swings, car seats, or similar equipment and placed in an approved crib.

Chapter W. Exemption Requirements

- This chapter has been re-lettered from X.