

No Smoking

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.27 – Each Center shall post in a designated area for public viewing near the front entrance the following: ... no smoking signs... **591-1-1-.28(2)** – No Smoking. Smoking is prohibited on the premises of a Center during the hours of operation. Smoking is also prohibited in any vehicle used to transport children during the hours that the Center is in operation.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.11(1)(l) – Smoking is prohibited on the premises of a Home during the hours of operation and no smoking signs must be posted. Smoking is also prohibited in any vehicle used to transport children during the hours that the Home is in operation.

Rule Type:
Non-Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To protect the health and safety of children and to ensure compliance with Georgia law.

Clarification

Scientific evidence has linked respiratory health risks to secondhand smoke (exhaled smoke from smokers into the air). No children, especially those with respiratory problems, should be exposed to additional risk from the air they breathe. Infants and young children exposed to secondhand smoke are at risk of severe asthma; developing bronchitis, pneumonia, and middle ear infections when they experience common respiratory infections; and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The hazards of exposure to secondhand smoke warrant the prohibition of smoking in areas where children are cared for at any time. Separating smokers and nonsmokers within the same air space does not eliminate or minimize exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke. Tobacco smoke contamination lingers after a cigarette is extinguished, and children come in contact with toxins left by cigarette smoke. Cigarettes and materials used to light them also present a risk of burn or fire. Georgia law prohibits smoking on the premises, and No Smoking signs must be posted for public viewing. Smoking is also prohibited in any vehicle used to transport children during the program's hours of operation.

Indicators

- ✓ No person shall be allowed to smoke on the premises of the child care program. In addition, during operating hours child care program staff shall not smoke in vehicles used for transporting children.
 - Note: For the purpose of this rule, “premises” is defined as the interior of the building, the outside areas on the property, and the inside of vehicles when present on the property.
 - Reminder: Child care program staff must take smoking breaks away from the child care program premises at all times.
 - Recommendation: Include information about no smoking on the premises in the parent handbook/policies and procedures. Policies should specify that smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are prohibited at all times and in all areas (indoor and outdoor) of the program.

- ✓ Child care programs must post a no smoking sign.
 - Note: Posting the no smoking sign in a designated area near the entrance of the program ensures that parents will see it as they enter and exit the building.
 - TIP: A sample no smoking sign can be found on Bright from the Start's website at:
<http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/NoSmokingSign.pdf>

Resources:

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org>