

UNLICENSED CARE POLICY LETTER

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE

As Parents, one of the most important decisions that we will ever make is to choose who will care for our children while we are working or attending school. While there are many people to choose from, the trick is to find the best person to meet the needs of the child and the parents.

Because the health, safety and development of all children are so important, it is vital that childcare providers be trained to give the best possible care. Keeping this in mind, the current family child care policy at Buckley AFB States that any individuals caring for the other families' children a total of more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must be licensed to provide care in on-base quarters.

This does not include:

- Individuals who occasionally provide child care for a friend or neighbor
- Individuals providing baby-sitting on occasional basis for other families
- Teenagers doing evening or weekend baby-sitting for families
- Child care provided in the parents' own home

Parent cooperatives where one of the parents provide supervision for other parents' children on an exchange basis for social functions and no fees are involved
temporary full-time care of a child during a parents' absence for temporary duty or deployment by the person listed on the AF Form 357, Family Care Plan.

You can compute the requirement to be licensed by multiplying the number of hours the providers offers care on a regular basis by the number of children in care. For example, if an individual provides care one afternoon a week for 4 children for 3 hours, they must be licensed. Anyone providing more childcare than the allowed amount must be approved by the Mission Support Group Commander as a licensed childcare provider.

Persons who are suspected of providing unlicensed childcare will receive a letter from the Family Child Care Coordinator, who will ensure the regulation is understood and encourage the person to become a licensed provider. Persons who continue to provide unlicensed care are subject to the loss of their housing privileges on Buckley AFB.

There are also many advantages to becoming a licensed Family Child Care professional. It can provide the opportunity to establish a career while remaining home with your own children. The business of Family Child Care is booming and the satisfaction of running your own home-based business can be wonderful! The Family Child Care office will provide all of the necessary training, equipment and materials to become licensed. There is no charge for this training or equipment.

Many people who consider starting a childcare business in their home are deterred by the potential start-up costs. The costs are significantly reduced for licensed providers because they have the support of the Family Childcare Resource Center. This enables providers to borrow much of the equipment they will need to set up their home for childcare. Items available, free of charge. The only real start-up cost is to acquire liability insurance for the childcare business.

Another advantage to becoming a licensed provider is that you may also enroll in the USDA food program. This program allows providers to be reimbursed for the meals they prepare for the children in care. This helps ensure the highest quality food is being served to the children.

When choosing childcare there are so many things to consider, but the most important one is the quality of care the child receives. A parent's peace of mind is fulfilled when leaving a child in the care of a nurturing, trained professional. Obtaining a Family Child Care license to provide more than 10 total hours of care in your home per week is rewarding as well as being mandatory on Buckley AFB.

For further information on how to find a child care provider to meet your needs, on how to become a provider, or to confidentially report unlicensed care, please feel free to call 720-847-7215