

For questions, concerns or to file a complaint contact your Regional Office

Regional Offices	Phone
Anne Arundel	410-573-9522
Baltimore City	667-354-5178
Baltimore County	410-583-6200
Prince George's	301-333-6940
Montgomery	240-314-1400
Howard	410-750-8771
Western Maryland, Allegany, Garrett & Washington	301-791-4585
Upper Shore, Kent, Dorchester, Talbot, Queen Anne's & Caroline	410-819-5801
Lower Shore, Wicomico, Somerset & Worcester	410-713-3430
Southern Maryland, Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's	301-475-3770
Harford & Cecil	410-569-2879
Frederick	301-696-9766
Carroll	410-549-6489

The Regional Offices investigate complaints to determine if child care licensing regulations have been violated. All confirmed complaints against child care providers may be viewed at [CheckCCMD.org](https://www.checkccmd.org).

For additional help, you may contact the Licensing Branch Chief at 410-767-0120.

Resources

Child Care Scholarship (CCS) - Assists eligible parents and families with child care expenses
1-877-227-0125 [money4childcare.com](https://www.money4childcare.com)

Maryland EXCELS - Maryland's Quality Rating System for child care programs
[marylandexcels.org](https://www.marylandexcels.org)

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council - Assistance with ADA issues
[md-council.org](https://www.md-council.org)

Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program - Early intervention services for young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families
[referral.mditp.org](https://www.referral.mditp.org)

Maryland Family Network - Assists parents in locating child care
1-877-261-0060 [marylandfamilynetwork.org](https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org)

Maryland Child - Information about child development, parenting, community resources, mental health, nutrition, literacy, and more.
[Marylandchild.org](https://www.marylandchild.org)

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Early Childhood
200 West Baltimore Street
10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org](https://www.earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org)

Wes Moore, Governor

Mohammed Choudhury,
State Superintendent of Schools

OCC 1524 (updated June 2023)

Parent's Guide to Regulated/ Licensed Child Care



Information About Child Care Facilities



Who Regulates Child Care?

All child care in Maryland is regulated by the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care's (OCC), Licensing Branch.

The Licensing Branch's thirteen Regional Offices are responsible for all regulatory activities, including:

- Issuing child care licenses and registrations to child care facilities that meet state standards;
- Inspecting child care facilities annually;
- Providing technical assistance to child care providers;
- Investigating complaints against regulated child care facilities;
- Investigating reports of unlicensed (illegal) child care;
- Taking enforcement action when necessary; and
- Partnering with community organizations and consumers to keep all children in care safe and healthy.

Regulations governing the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) fall under COMAR Title 13A. Regulations that govern child care facilities and other information about the Office of Child Care may be found at:

earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing

What are the types of Child Care Facilities?

Family Child Care – care in a provider's home for up to eight (8) children with no more than two under the age of two.

Large Family Child Care – care in a provider's home for 9-12 children.

Child Care Center – non-parental care in a group setting for part of a 24 hour day.

Letter of Compliance (LOC) – care in a child care center operated by a religious organization for children who attend their school.

All facilities must meet the following requirements:

- Must obtain the approval of OCC, fire department, and local agencies;
- Must have qualified staff who have received criminal background checks, child abuse and neglect clearances, and are not on the sex offender registry;
- Must maintain certification in First Aid and CPR;
- Must maintain approved staff and student ratio and provide ACTIVE supervision all times when children are in care;
- Must offer a daily program of indoor and outdoor activities;
- Must maintain a file with all required documentation for each enrolled child;
- Must post approved evacuation plans, conduct fire drills, and emergency preparedness drills; and
- Must report suspected abuse and neglect, and may not subject children to abuse, neglect, mental injury, or injurious treatment.

Did You Know?

- The provider's license or registration must be posted in a conspicuous place in the facility;
- A child care provider must enter into a written agreement, with a parent, that specifies fees, discipline policy, presence of animals, the use of volunteers, and sleeping arrangements for overnight care;
- Parents/guardians may visit the facility without prior notification any time their children are present;
- Written permission from parents/guardians is required for children to participate in any and all off property activities;
- All child care facilities must make reasonable accommodations for children with special needs;
- A qualified teacher must be assigned to each group of children in a child care center;
- Staff:child ratios must be maintained at all times child care centers;
- Parents/guardian must be immediately notified if children are injured or have an accident in care;
- Parents/guardians may review the public portion of a licensing file; and
- Check Child Care Maryland, CheckCCMD.org, is resource for parents and families to use to review child care provider's license status, verified complaints, compliance history, and inspection results.