

**RULES
OF
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**CHAPTER 1240-04-05
PROCEDURES AFFECTING LICENSES OF CHILD CARE AGENCIES**

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1240-04-05-.01 PURPOSE AND SCOPE.

- (1) These rules shall apply to all child care agencies licensed by the Department of Human Services pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 71-3-501 et seq. and to all proceedings held before the Child Care Agency Board of Review established pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 71-3-501 et seq. Any conflict between these rules and those governing specific classes of child care agencies shall be resolved by reference to these rules.
- (2) These rules establish procedures for the application and issuance of licenses for child care agencies; the placement on probation of a child care agency by the Department of Human Services; the imposition of a civil penalty by the Department of Human Services against a licensee of a child care agency, the summary suspension of licenses of child care agencies and the denial, revocation, or restriction of licenses by the Department of licenses of child care agencies licensed by the Department of Human Services pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 71-3-501 et seq.
- (3) All persons or entities operating a child-care center, a family-child care home, a group child care home, a drop-in center as defined by T.C.A. § 71-3-501 and the rules of the Department of Human Services must be licensed by the Department as provided by T.C.A. §§ 71-3-501 et seq. and the rules of the Department unless otherwise exempted by T.C.A. § 71-3-503 and the rules of the Department.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 71-1-105; 71-3-501, et seq., and Acts 2000, ch. 981, §§ 1-4 and 14. **Administrative History:** Chapter 1240-04-05 has been assigned a new control number, removed and renumbered to chapter 0250-04-05 filed and effective March 25, 1999. New rule filed September 29, 2000; effective December 13, 2000.

1240-04-05-.02 DEFINITIONS.

- (1) Applicant. The owner or owner's representative who is required, pursuant to the provisions of these rules, to sign the application for a license.
- (2) Application. The form for, and the process of, applying for a license from the Department of Human Services.
- (3) Child care agency. A place or facility, regardless of whether it is currently licensed, that is operated as a "family child care home", a "group child care home", a "child care center", or a "drop-in child care center", that provides child care for three (3) or more hours per day to five (5) or more children who are not related to the primary educator.
- (4) Child Care Agency Board of Review, Board of Review or Board. A committee established to review actions initiated by the Department of Human Services and the Department of

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Children's Services to deny an application for licensure, revoke a license, or otherwise limit any license, except for summary suspension of, or probation involving, a license; any civil penalties imposed by the Department of Human Services; or any safety plan implemented by the Department of Human Services that will be, or has been, in effect ninety (90) days or more.

- (5) Civil Penalty. A financial sanction imposed by the Department of Human Services against a child care agency that has violated a licensing regulation.
- (6) Commissioner. The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services.
- (7) Continuous License. A license issued to a child care agency following its provisional licensure period and after the agency has demonstrated its ability to attain and maintain compliance with all licensing laws and regulations.
- (8) Denial. The decision of the Department of Human Services not to issue a provisional or continuous license.
- (9) Department (DHS). The Tennessee Department of Human Services and its authorized representatives.
- (10) Hearing Official. The administrative judge assigned to conduct summary suspension hearings or for Child Care Agency Board of Review hearings as may be permitted by law.
- (11) Law. The statutory or regulatory provisions affecting the operation of a child care agency.
- (12) License. A permit issued by the Department to a child care agency, authorizing the licensee to provide child care in accordance with provisions of the license, the law, and the regulations of the Department. Issuance of a license is not an endorsement by the Department of child care methods or of an agency's operational philosophy.
- (13) Licensee. The person, agency, group, or entity to whom or to which a license to operate a child care agency is issued by the Department.
- (14) Provisional license. A license issued to a child care agency for one hundred twenty (120) days for the purpose of allowing the child care agency to demonstrate their ability to attain and maintain compliance with all licensing laws and regulations. Such provisional license may continue in effect, unless suspended if the Department fails to issue a continuous license after the one hundred twenty (120) day period if the Department determines an extension is necessary to allow the child care agency to demonstrate ability to maintain compliance with licensing laws and regulations.
- (15) Reapplication. Application for a new license following denial or revocation of a license.
- (16) Restricted license. A license which, either at the time of issuance, or during the license's existence, is reduced in its operational authority by the Department so that the child care agency's ability to provide certain child care related services are limited because the Department has determined that one or more areas of the agency's operations are not in compliance with child care laws or regulations or the agency's operations are, or have posed, a risk to the health, safety or welfare of children in the agency's care or the agency's operations pose the potential of such risk. A restricted license may also be imposed by the Child Care Agency Board of Review as part of its review of the licensing status of a child care agency in the same manner and for the same reasons as such a license is issued or imposed by the Department. A restricted license may be appealed to the Child Care Agency Board of Review.

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- (17) Revocation. The permanent removal of an existing license.
- (18) Summary Suspension. The emergency suspension of a license for violation(s) of licensing laws or regulations needed to adequately protect the health, safety, or welfare of children in a child care agency. Summary suspension may be ordered in circumstances that have resulted in death, injury, or harm to a child or that have posed or threatened to pose a serious and immediate threat of harm or injury to a child based upon the intentional or negligent failure to comply with licensing laws or regulations.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 71-1-105(a)(5); 71-3-501, et seq.; and 71-3-509(e). **Administrative History:** Chapter 1240-04-05 has been assigned a new control number, removed and renumbered to chapter 0250-04-05 filed and effective March 25, 1999. New rule filed September 29, 2000; effective December 13, 2000. Amendments filed May 1, 2018; effective July 30, 2018. Amendments filed August 22, 2025; effective November 20, 2025.

1240-04-05-.03 LICENSING PROCESS.

- (1) Licensing Criteria.
 - (a) A license for the operation of a child care agency is issued and its continued approval is based upon the following general criteria:
 1. The safety, welfare and best interests of the children in the care of the agency;
 2. The capability, training and character of the persons providing or supervising the care to the children;
 3. The quality of the methods of care and instruction provided for the children;
 4. The suitability of the facilities provided for the care of the children; and
 5. The adequacy of the methods of administration and the management of the child care agency, the agency's personnel policies, and the financing of the agency.
 - (b) Failure to attain or maintain the criteria in subparagraph (a) either alone, or in conjunction with failure to attain or maintain compliance with any other regulations governing the specific class of child care agency, may be the basis for refusal to grant a license, or for placing the child care agency on probation, or for suspension, denial or revocation of the agency's license.
- (2) The Department shall assist applicants or licensees in meeting the child care standards of the Department unless the circumstances demonstrate that further assistance is not compatible with the continued safety, health or welfare of the children in the agency's care and that regulatory action affecting the agency's license is warranted. It is the responsibility of the applicant/licensee to comply with all regulations of the Department of Human Services and those regulations of any other federal, state or local regulatory agency which are necessary for the proper operation of a child care business and to demonstrate to the Department a good faith commitment to attaining and maintaining compliance with all applicable licensing standards. All costs and expenses arising from or related to meeting the child care standards of the Department shall be borne entirely by the applicant or licensee; provided, however, the Department may, in its discretion, provide from available funds technical assistance to child care agencies, and for the training of child caregivers and directors.
- (3) If a licensee is denied, or if a license is revoked or suspended, or if any applicant for a license cannot meet the standards, then the Department shall offer reasonable assistance to the

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parent, guardian, or custodian of the child in planning for the placement of such children in licensed child care agencies or other suitable care.

- (4) Application for an Initial License. Application for an initial license to operate a child care agency shall be made in writing to the Department in such manner as the Department determines and shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee set forth in the fee schedule in paragraph (14).
- (5) Provisional License.
 - (a) If the Department determines that the applicant for an initial license has presented satisfactory evidence that the facility which is proposed for the care of children has received fire safety and environmental safety approval, that the applicant and the personnel who will care for the children are capable in all substantial respects to care for the children and that the applicant has the ability and intent to comply with the licensing law and regulations, the Department may issue a provisional license to the applicant. No provisional license will be issued until, at a minimum, fire safety and environmental safety inspections have been conducted and the applicant has received approval from the appropriate agencies.
 - (b) If the Department determines that the conditions of the applicant's facility, its methods of care or other circumstances warrant, it may issue a restricted provisional license which limits the agency's authority in one or more areas of operation.
 - (c) The purpose of the provisional license is to permit the license applicant to begin the operation of a child care agency after meeting certain minimum requirements and to demonstrate during the provisional licensing period that it has the ability to attain and maintain compliance with all licensing laws and regulations.
 - (d) Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the issuance of the provisional license, the Department shall determine if the applicant has demonstrated that it meets all of the requirements for the issuance of a license for the classification of child care agency for which the application was made.
- (6) Continuous License.
 - (a) If the Department determines that the applicant for any license has complied with all licensing regulations for the classification of child care agency for which application was made, the Department may issue a license or may, if appropriate, issue a restricted license as provided in subparagraph (b).
 - (b) If the Department determines that the conditions of the applicant's facility, its methods of care or other circumstances warrant, it may issue a restricted license which limits the agency's authority in one or more areas of operation.
- (7) License Information.
 - (a) Based upon information provided in the license application or as may be requested by the Department, the license shall describe the ownership of the child care agency, the person who is charged with the day-to-day management of the child care agency, and, if the agency is owned by a person other than the director, or if the agency is under the ownership or direction or control of any person or entity who is not also the on-site director or manager of the agency, the license shall also state the corporate or other name of the controlling person or entity, its address and telephone number where the parents, guardians or custodians may have contact regarding the agency's operations.

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- (b) If the child care agency is operated by a public or private non-profit entity and is subject to the control or direction of a board of directors or other oversight authority, the license shall list the name, address and telephone number of the chairman of the board or other executive head of such controlling body.

- (8) Posting of License.

The licensee shall post the license in a clearly visible location as determined by the Department so that parents or other persons visiting the agency can readily view the license and all the information on the license.

- (9) Before and After School Services.
 - (a) In order for a child care agency to offer before or after school services, the Department will issue a license bearing a notation that the agency is authorized to provide such services.
 - (b) An agency is not authorized to offer such services unless the license bears such a notation.

- (10) In granting a license, the Department may limit the total number of children who may be enrolled at the agency regardless of the agency's physical capacity or the size of its staff.

- (11) License Status Following Application or Appeal.
 - (a) If the Department fails to issue or deny a license within one hundred twenty (120) days of the granting of the provisional license, the provisional license shall continue in effect, unless suspended as provided in 1240-04-05-.04(5), until such determination is made.
 - (b) If a license is denied following the issuance of a provisional license, and if a timely appeal is made of the denial of the license, the provisional license shall remain in effect, unless suspended as provided in 1240-04-05-.04(5), until the Child Care Agency Board of Review renders a decision regarding the denial of the license.

- (12) If a provisional or continuous license is denied, or a continuous license is restricted, the applicant may file an appeal as provided in T.C.A. § 71-3-509 and other applicable laws and rules governing the Child Care Agency Board of Review.

- (13) Transfers of Licenses.
 - (a) Except as provided in this chapter, no license for a child care agency shall be transferable from one location to another or from one licensee/operator to another, and the transfer by sale or lease, or in any other manner, of the operation of the child care agency to any other person or entity shall void the existing license immediately and any pending appeal involving the status of the license, and the child care agency shall be required to close; provided that if the transferee has made application for, and is granted, a provisional license, the child care agency may continue operation under the direction of the new licensee. The new licensee in such circumstances may not be the transferor or any person or entity acting on behalf of the transferor.
 - (b) Notice of Termination to Buyer/Lessee/Transferee.
 - 1. Except for transfers subject to the provisions of subparagraph (d), at least thirty (30) days before the sale, lease, or transfer by any other means, of a child care agency, the licensee/owner/management of the child care agency shall notify in writing the buyer, lessee or other prospective transferee of the child care agency

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that the license of the child care agency is not transferable and that upon the effective date of the transfer, the license of the child care agency will automatically terminate and of the need to seek a provisional license from the Department for continued operation of the child care agency.

2. The licensee/owner/management of the child care agency shall notify in writing the Department at the same time the notice required by part 1 is sent and shall clearly identify the date of the transfer and the identity of the prospective buyer/lessee/transferee.
- (c) If the Department determines that any person or entity has transferred nominal control of a child care agency to any persons or entities who are determined by the Department to be acting on behalf of the purported transferor in order to circumvent a history of violations of the licensing law or regulations or to otherwise attempt to circumvent the licensing law or regulations or any prior licensing actions instituted by the Department, the Department may deny the issuance of any license to the applicant. The denial of the license may be appealed as provided in T.C.A. § 71-3-509 and other applicable laws and rules governing the Child Care Agency Board of Review.
 - (d) The license of any child care agency shall not be voided nor shall any pending appeal be voided pursuant to this paragraph solely for the reason that the child care agency is subject to judicial orders directing the transfer of control or management of a child care agency or its license to any receiver, trustee, administrator or executor of an estate, or any similarly situated person or entity.
 - (e) If the current licensee dies or is incapacitated, and provided that no licensing violations require the suspension, denial or revocation of the child care agency's license, the Department may grant family members of the licensee, or administrators or executors of the licensee, a new provisional license to continue operation for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days. At the end of such period, the Department shall determine whether a license should be granted to a new licensee as otherwise provided in this chapter.
 - (f) Nothing in this paragraph (13) shall be construed to prevent the Department from taking any regulatory or judicial action as may be required pursuant to the licensing laws and regulations that may be necessary to protect the children in the care of such child care agency.
- (14) Application Fees.

The following application fees shall apply to applications for initial licenses for child care agencies licensed by the Department:

(a) Family child care homes:	\$100.00
(b) Group child care homes:	\$125.00
(c) Child care centers (Less than 100 children):	\$200.00
(d) Child care centers (More than 100 children):	\$400.00
(e) Child care centers (More than 250 children):	\$500.00
(f) Drop-in centers:	\$200.00

(Rule 1240-04-05-.03, continued)

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 71-1-105(a)(5); 71-3-501, et seq.; and 71-3-502. **Administrative History:** Chapter 1240-04-05 has been assigned a new control number, removed and renumbered to chapter 0250-04-05 filed and effective March 25, 1999. New rule filed September 29, 2000; effective December 13, 2000. Amendments filed May 1, 2018; effective July 30, 2018. Amendments filed August 22, 2025; effective November 20, 2025.

1240-04-05-.04 VIOLATIONS OF LICENSING REGULATIONS.

- (1) Right of Inspection.
 - (a) It is the duty of the Department, through its duly authorized agents, to inspect at regular intervals, without previous notice, all child care agencies or suspected child care agencies, as defined in T.C.A. § 71-3-501.
 - (b) The Department is given the right of entrance, privilege of inspection, access to accounts, records, and information regarding the whereabouts of children under care for the purpose of determining the kind and quality of the care provided to the children and to obtain a proper basis for its decisions and recommendations.
 - (c) If refused entrance for inspection of a licensed, approved or suspected child care agency, the chancery or circuit court of the county where the licensed, approved or suspected child care agency may be located may issue an immediate ex parte order permitting the Department's inspection upon a showing of probable cause, and the court may direct any law enforcement officer to aid the Department in executing such order and inspection. Refusal to obey the inspection order may be punished as contempt.
 - (d) Except where court orders prohibit or otherwise limit access, parents or other caretakers of children in the care of a child care agency licensed pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 71-3-501 et seq. shall be permitted to visit and inspect the facilities and observe the methods for the care of their children at any time during which the children are in the care of the agency and, except those records of other children in the care of the agency and their parents or caretakers, shall further be permitted to inspect any records of the agency which are not privileged, or are not otherwise confidential, as provided by law or regulation, and the parents' or caretakers' access for these purposes shall not be purposely denied by the agency.
 - (e) Any violation of the rights given in this paragraph is a Class A misdemeanor.
- (2) Probation.
 - (a) If, during the licensing period, the Department determines that a child care agency is not in compliance with the laws or regulations governing its operation, and, if after reasonable written notice to the child care agency of the non-compliance, the Department determines that the violation or related violations remain uncorrected, the Department may place the licensed child care agency on probation for a definite period of not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days as determined by the Department. The Department shall provide the child care agency a written notice describing the violation of the licensing rules that support the basis for the probationary status.
 - (b) If placed on probation, the agency shall immediately post a copy of the probation notice, together with a list provided by the Department of the violations which were the basis for the probation, in a conspicuous place as directed by the Department and with the agency's license, and the agency shall immediately notify in writing the custodians

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of each of the children in its care of the agency's status, the basis for the probation and of the agency's right to an informal review of the probationary status.

- (c) If the child care agency requests an informal review within two (2) business days of the imposition of probation, either verbally or in writing, an informal review of the probationary status shall be conducted by Department licensing personnel who were not involved in the decision to impose the probation. The child care agency may submit any written or oral statements as argument to the licensing supervisor or designee within five (5) business days of the imposition of the probation. Written and oral statements may be received by any available electronic means. The licensing supervisor or designee shall render a decision in writing upholding, modifying or lifting the probationary status within seven (7) business days of the imposition of the probation.
 - (d) If the licensing supervisor or designee did not lift the probation under subparagraph (c), the agency may also appeal such action in writing to the Commissioner within five (5) business days of the receipt of the notice of the licensing supervisor or designee's decision regarding the agency's probationary status as determined in subparagraph (c). If timely appealed, the Department shall conduct an administrative hearing pursuant to the contested case provisions of T.C.A. §§ 4-5-301 et seq. concerning the Department's action within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the appeal and shall render a decision in writing within seven (7) business days following conclusion of the hearing. The hearing officer may uphold, modify or lift the probation.
 - (e) The imposition of probation pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph (2) shall be discretionary with the Department, and shall not be a prerequisite to any licensing action, to impose a civil penalty or to suspend, deny or revoke a license of a child care agency.
- (3) Civil Penalties.
- (a) General Provisions.
 - 1. If the Department determines that there exists any violation with respect to any person or entity required to be licensed pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 71-3-501 et seq., the Department may assess a civil penalty against such person or entity for each separate violation of a statute, rule or order pertaining to such person or entity in an amount ranging from Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for minor violations up to a maximum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for major violations or violations resulting in death or injury to a child. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate violation.
 - 2. Any recommendation made by licensing staff for a civil penalty shall be reviewed and approved by the Department's state office management and the Department's legal staff before being imposed.
 - (b) Civil Penalties Schedule.
 - 1. Major Violations.
 - (i) For any violation of any licensing laws or regulations that, due to negligence or intentional disregard of licensing law or regulations, results in serious injury to, or death of, a child, the Department may assess a civil penalty in a range from Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The Department shall determine the amount of the penalty based upon the extent of the injury to the child and

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whether the injury or death of the child was the result of negligence or intentional disregard of the licensing regulations. Consideration of the licensee's history of prior violations shall also be a factor in the determination of the amount of the civil penalty.

- (ii) For any violation of any licensing laws or regulations that, due to negligence or intentional disregard of licensing law or regulations, results in an injury to a child, the Department may assess a civil penalty in a range from Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) up to Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00). The Department shall determine the amount of the penalty based upon the extent of the injury and whether the injury to the child was the result of negligence or intentional disregard of the licensing regulations. Consideration of the licensee's history of prior violations shall also be a factor in the determination of the amount of the civil penalty.
- (iii) For any violation of any licensing laws or regulations that, due to negligence or intentional disregard of licensing law or regulations, results in children leaving the child care agency premises without supervision, or children left unsupervised that may result in imminent harm, the Department may assess a civil penalty in a range from Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The Department shall determine the amount of the penalty based upon the extent of the potential harm to the child and whether the potential harm to the child was a result of negligence or intentional disregard of the licensing regulations. Consideration of the licensee's history of prior violations shall also be a factor in the determination of the amount of the civil penalty.
- (iv) For violations of the following categories of regulations the Department may impose a civil penalty of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for the first violation, Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for the second violation, and Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) for the third and any subsequent such violation:
 - (I) Failure to follow any rule related to the proper transportation of children by employees, substitutes, volunteers, agents or contractors of the child care agency;
 - (II) Violation of adult:child ratio requirements;
 - (III) Failure to complete required background checks on staff;
 - (IV) Use of corporal punishment/inappropriate discipline;
 - (V) Lack of Insurance;
 - (VI) Failure to report suspicion of abuse or neglect;
 - (VII) Falsification of documents required by the Department;
 - (VIII) Failure to have CPR/first aid certification as required by the Department;
 - (IX) Lack of proper supervision of children;
 - (X) Failure to properly dispense or store medications;

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- (XI) Failure to remove persons from access to children following notification of a prohibited criminal background or pending criminal charge or following notification of the person's validated status as a perpetrator of child abuse;
 - (XII) Failure to properly store hazardous items such as, but not limited to, cleaning products, pesticides, hazardous chemicals, or other poisonous items; and
 - (XIII) Failure to properly remove or secure firearms within the child care agency area which are under the ownership or control of the child care agency or its staff, substitutes, or other persons permitted access to the children; or failure to prevent exposure of children in the child care agency's care to firearms which are under the control of the child care agency or its staff, substitutes, or other persons who have been permitted by the child care agency to have access to the children.
- (v) The existence of six (6) or more minor violations of any type in any period of three (3) or more months shall constitute a major violation and may be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Department of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) in addition to the penalty for each minor violation. Three (3) or more minor violations of the same regulation in any period of three (3) or more months shall constitute a major violation and may be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Department of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) in addition to the penalty for each minor violation.
2. Minor Violations.
- (i) A minor violation shall be any rule violation not described as a major violation in part 1.
 - (ii) Each minor violation may subject the licensee to a civil penalty of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).
- (c) The Department shall assess any civil penalty that it imposes in an order that states the reasons for the assessment of the civil penalty and the amount of the penalty.
- (d) The order may be served on the licensee personally by an authorized agent of the Department who shall complete an affidavit of service, or the order may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested.
- (e) The licensee may appeal the penalty to the Child Care Agency Board of Review by filing a request for an appeal in writing with the Commissioner within ten (10) days of the personal service of the order or mailing date of the order. The hearing on the appeal shall be heard within ninety (90) days unless continued for good cause shown.
- (f) Civil penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection shall become final ten (10) days after the date an order of assessment is served if not timely appealed, or, if timely appealed, within seven (7) days following entry of the Board's order unless the Board's order is stayed.
- (g) Remedies for Failure to Pay Civil Penalty.

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1. If the violator fails to pay an assessment when it becomes final, the Department may apply to the Chancery Court of Davidson County, Tennessee for a judgment and seek execution of such judgment.
 2. No application for a new license will be accepted by the Department until a civil penalty that has become final has been paid in full. Failure to pay in full a civil penalty which has become final is grounds for denial of a pending application for a provisional or continuous license and, further, is grounds for revocation of an existing license.
- (h) The determination to impose a civil penalty shall be discretionary with the Department and shall not be a prerequisite to any other licensing action to suspend, deny or revoke a child care agency's license. Civil penalties may also be used in conjunction with the probation, suspension, denial or revocation of a license.
- (4) Denial and Revocation of Licenses.
- (a) If the Department determines that any applicant for a provisional license or an existing licensee has failed to maintain compliance with licensing laws or regulations after reasonable notice, consistent with the safety of the children in the care of the child care agency, of such failure and a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate compliance with licensing laws or regulations, the Department may deny the application for the provisional license or may revoke the existing license; provided, however, the Department at any time may deny a provisional license if the applicant fails to meet the initial requirements for its issuance; and, provided, further, if the Department determines that repeated or serious violations of licensing laws or regulations warrant the denial or revocation of the license, then, notwithstanding any provisions of T.C.A. § 4-5-320 or this paragraph to the contrary, the Department may seek denial or revocation of the license regardless of the licensee's demonstration of compliance either before or after the notice of denial of the application or before or after notice of the revocation of the license.
 - (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of T.C.A. § 4-5-320, the notice of denial or revocation may be served personally by an authorized representative of the Department who shall verify service of the notice by affidavit, or the notice may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested.
 - (c) If application for the provisional or initial license is denied or if an existing license is revoked, the applicant may appeal the denial or revocation by requesting in writing to the Department a hearing before the Child Care Agency Board of Review within ten (10) days of the personal delivery or mailing date of the notice of denial or revocation. Failure to timely appeal shall result in the expiration of any existing license immediately upon the expiration of the time for appeal.
 - (d) The hearing shall be held in accordance with the hearing procedures before the Child Care Agency Board of Review pursuant to the licensing law.
 - (e) If timely appeal of the denial or revocation is made, then, pending the hearing upon the denial or revocation, the child care agency may continue to operate pending the decision of the Child Care Agency Board of Review unless the license is summarily suspended as provided in paragraph (5).
- (5) Summary Suspension of Licenses.

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- (a) Subject to the following provisions of this section, if the Department determines at anytime that the health, safety or welfare of the children in care of the child care agency imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of the license may be ordered by the Department pending any further proceedings for revocation, denial or other action. Summary suspension may be ordered in circumstances that have resulted in death, injury or harm to a child or which have posed or threatened to pose a serious and immediate threat of harm or injury to a child based upon the intentional or negligent failure to comply with licensing laws or regulations.
- (b) Contents of the Order of Summary Suspension.
1. The licensee shall be provided written notice of the issuance of the order of summary suspension and shall be notified that the licensee has the opportunity for an informal hearing before an administrative law judge or before a hearing officer who is not an employee of the Department (except as provided in part (e)3.) within three (3) business days of the issuance of the order of summary suspension.
 2. The Department shall set forth with specificity in its order the legal and factual basis for its decision, stating therein the specific laws or regulations which were violated by the agency, and shall state with specificity in the order the reasons that the issuance of the order of summary suspension is necessary to adequately protect the health, safety or welfare of children in the care of the child care agency.
 3. The order shall state the time, date and location of a show cause hearing to determine if the suspension is appropriate, shall state the issues involved as described in subparagraph (f) and shall notify the licensee of the right to be represented by counsel.
- (c) The notice may be personally delivered by any authorized representative of the Department to any person in charge of or reasonably believed to be in charge or who may be supervising the agency at the time of delivery. If such person is not the licensee, the order shall also be sent to the licensee by certified mail, return receipt requested, but the effect of the order shall not be delayed by mail delivery. The order shall contain a certificate of service or shall have attached to it a certificate verifying its service by personal delivery, and, if required, by certified mail service.
- (d) The order shall be effective upon entry by the Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, at such time as directed by the order. Upon receipt of the order by any person to whom the order is delivered at the child care agency, the agency shall cease or limit its operations at such time and in such manner as the order directs.
- (e) Hearing Official and Authority.
1. Hearings on summary suspension orders shall be heard by an administrative law judge from the Administrative Procedures Division of the Secretary of State's Office, if the administrative law judge is available within the time frames for a summary suspension hearing.
 2. If the Administrative Procedures Division of the Secretary of State's Office informs the Department that an administrative law judge is unavailable, the Department may obtain an administrative law judge or hearing officer who is not an employee of the Department except as provided herein. The substitute administrative law judge or hearing officer may be obtained by the Department by

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contract with a private attorney or by contract or agreement with another state agency. If the Administrative Procedures Division of the Office of the Secretary of State informs the Department that the Division's contested case docket prevents the scheduling of a hearing on the issuance of a summary suspension order within the initial timeframes set forth in this subparagraph and if the Department is unable to obtain a private or state agency administrative law judge or hearing officer to hear the show cause hearing on the summary suspension order within the timeframes set forth in this part, the Department may utilize a hearing officer from the Department's Division of Appeals and Hearings.

3. The administrative law judge or hearing officer shall have authority, as otherwise permitted in this section and subject to the provisions of subparagraph (h), to enter orders binding on the Department resulting from show cause hearings involving summary suspension orders.

(f) Hearing Procedures.

1. The informal hearing described by this subdivision shall not be required to be held under the contested case provisions of T.C.A. §§ 4-5-301 et seq.
2. The hearing is intended to provide an informal, reasonable opportunity for the licensee to present to the hearing official the licensee's version of the circumstances leading to the suspension order and any measures taken to correct the violations leading to the suspension.
3. The only issues to be considered are whether the public health, safety or welfare imperatively required emergency action by the Department and what, if any, corrective measures have been taken by the child care agency following the violation of the licensing laws or regulations cited by the Department and prior to the issuance of the order of summary suspension, that would eliminate the danger to the health, safety or welfare of the children in the care of the agency.

(g) Hearing Order.

1. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the administrative law judge or hearing officer shall render a decision immediately regarding the status of the agency's license and shall state the basis for the decision.
2. The administrative law judge or hearing officer may lift, modify, or continue the suspension based upon the evidence presented and the stipulations and agreements of the parties.
3. The hearing order containing findings of fact and conclusions of law to support the decision shall be reduced to writing within fifteen (15) days after the hearing and shall be sent to the parties and their counsel.

(h) Revocation, Denial of the License Following Suspension or Modification of the Order of Summary Suspension by the Department.

1. Subsequent to the hearing on the summary suspension, the Department may proceed with revocation or denial of the license or other action as authorized by this part, regardless of the decision concerning summary suspension of the license, or the Commissioner, upon satisfactory proof that the conditions warrant, may by further order, lift or reduce the restrictions contained in the order of summary suspension without further order by the administrative law judge or

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hearing officer, or, may, upon agreement of the licensee, further modify the order by imposing new, additional or different restrictions or conditions upon the licensee or the licensee's operations. A summary suspension order entered by the Department may be lifted or modified by the Department following its entry by the Department as provided in this part, before, or after, a case is docketed with the Child Care Agency Board of Review, without further approval of the Board or a Board panel.

2. If the Department determines that revocation or denial of the license is warranted following suspension, those proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined as authorized by the licensing law.
3. Unless extended by agreement of the licensee, the order of summary suspension shall be dissolved upon motion of the licensee unless the Department has issued a notice of denial or revocation of the license within thirty calendar (30) days of the summary suspension order's entry.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-301, et seq.; 71-1-105(a)(5); 71-3-501, et seq.; and 71-3-509. **Administrative History:** Chapter 1240-04-05 has been assigned a new control number, removed and renumbered to chapter 0250-04-05 filed and effective March 25, 1999. New rule filed September 29, 2000; effective December 13, 2000. Amendments filed May 1, 2018; effective July 30, 2018. Amendments filed August 22, 2025; effective November 20, 2025.

1240-04-05-.05 RESTRICTED LICENSES FOR CHILD CARE AGENCIES.

- (1) Limitation of Authority
 - (a) In determining whether to deny, revoke or summarily suspend a license, the Department may choose to deny, revoke or suspend only certain authority of the licensee to operate and may permit the licensee to continue operation, but may restrict or modify the licensee's authority to provide certain services or perform certain functions, including, but not limited to: transportation or food service, enrollment of children at the agency, the agency's hours of operation, the agency's use of certain parts of the agency's physical facilities or any other function of the child care agency which the Department determines should be restricted or modified to protect the health, safety or welfare of the children.
 - (b) The restrictions shall be contained in the notice of denial or revocation or in the order of summary suspension entered by the Department and shall state the basis for the restriction and the specific areas of operation which are to be limited.
 - (c) The restrictions shall remain on the license until the next license issuance anniversary date unless modified or removed pursuant to paragraph (4) below. If the Department determines that the restrictions on the license should continue, the child care agency may appeal to the Child Care Agency Board of Review.
- (2) The actions by the Department authorized by this section may be appealed to the Child Care Agency Board of Review as otherwise provided by the licensing law for any denial or revocation, or as provided in this chapter for summary suspensions of licenses.
- (3) Appeal and Status of Restricted License.
 - (a) If the licensee does not appeal the issuance of a restricted license or the summary suspension of authority to operate, it may petition the Department to request that the restrictions be removed or altered.

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- (b) If timely appeal is made, then, pending the hearing upon the restricted license, the child care agency may continue to operate pending the decision of the Child Care Agency Board of Review unless the license is summarily suspended as provided in Section .04(5).
- (4) The Department may, at any time, modify or remove the restrictions on the license upon order of the Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 71-1-105(a)(5); 71-3-501, et seq.; and 71-3-509(f). **Administrative History:** Chapter 1240-04-05 has been assigned a new control number, removed and renumbered to chapter 0250-04-05 filed and effective March 25, 1999. New rule filed September 29, 2000; effective December 13, 2000. Amendments filed August 22, 2025; effective November 20, 2025.

1240-04-05-.06 REAPPLICATION PERIODS.

- (1) When an application for a license has been denied, or a license has been revoked, on one (1) occasion, the child care agency may not reapply for a license for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of the denial or revocation order if not appealed, or, if appealed, from the effective date of the Child Care Agency Board of Review's or reviewing court's order.
- (2) If an application for a license has been denied, or a license has been revoked, on two (2) occasions, the child care agency may not reapply for a license for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of the denial or revocation if not appealed or, if appealed, from the effective date of the Child Care Agency Board of Review's or reviewing court's order.
- (3) If an application for a license has been denied, or a license has been revoked on three (3) occasions, the agency shall not receive another license for the care of children.
- (4) No person who served as full or part owner or as director or as a member of the management of a child care agency shall receive a license to operate a child care agency if that person participated in such capacity in a child care agency which has been denied a license, or which had a license revoked, on three (3) occasions.
- (5) Waivers
 - (a) The time restrictions in paragraphs (1) and (2) may be waived by the Child Care Agency Board of Review in the hearing in which the denial or revocation is sustained, or, if requested by the former licensee in writing to the Commissioner, in a separate subsequent hearing before the Child Care Agency Board of Review or, in the discretion of the Commissioner, upon review by the Commissioner. No waiver may be granted for any permanent restriction imposed pursuant to paragraph (3).
 - (b) The agency must show to the Child Care Agency Board of Review's or the Commissioner's satisfaction, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the agency has corrected the deficiencies which led to the denial or revocation, and that the child care agency can demonstrate that it has the present and future ability, and is willing, to maintain compliance with licensing laws or regulations.
 - (c) The decision of the Child Care Agency Board of Review or the Commissioner shall be reduced to an order, which shall be a final order pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 3 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, and may be appealed pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-322.
- (6) For purposes of this section, unless otherwise specified in the order, the "effective date of the board's or court's order" shall mean the date the order is entered by the Chair of the Child Care Agency Board of Review or panel chair or vice-Chair of the Child Care Agency Board of Review.

(Rule 1240-04-05-.06, continued)

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 71-1-105(a)(5); 71-3-501, et seq.; and 71-3-509(g). **Administrative History:** Chapter 1240-04-05 has been assigned a new control number, removed and renumbered to chapter 0250-04-05 filed and effective March 25, 1999. New rule filed September 29, 2000; effective December 13, 2000. Amendments filed August 22, 2025; effective November 20, 2025.