

Child Care Suspension Resources for Families

Q: What is DCYF Child Care Licensing?

A: The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) licenses approximately 5,600 child care and early learning programs and school-age sites in the state of Washington. Licensed child care and early learning providers follow foundational quality standards, the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), set by the state to ensure children in licensed care are in safe, healthy, and nurturing environments.

Q: What is a license suspension?

A: It is a temporary action that DCYF uses to keep children safe. The child care is not able to operate during a suspension. “Suspend,” when used in reference to a provider’s licensing status, means an enforcement action by the department to temporarily stop a license to protect the health, safety, or welfare of enrolled children or the public. (WAC 110-300 - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=110-300&full=true>)

Q: Why would a child care provider get their license suspended?

A: Part of DCYF’s role in ensuring children are in healthy and safe environments is considering allegations such as:

- Lack of adequate supervision
- Insufficient nurturing and care
- Unsafe facility environment
- Inappropriate discipline
- Lack of proper sanitation (and other health concerns)
- Allegations of child abuse or neglect

The list above is not all encompassing and other factors may contribute to a suspension.

Q: What can DCYF share with me about the suspension?

A: More than likely, the suspension is part of an open complaint investigation; therefore, not much information may be shared. You may locate your regional office if you have additional questions: <https://dcyf.wa.gov/find-an-office/el-offices>

Q: Where can I look for alternative child care?

A: There are a couple different avenues that you could explore to find appropriate child care:

- **Child Care Check**
<https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/child-care-check>
- **Child Care Aware of Washington**
<https://childcareawarewa.org>
1 (800) 446-1114 and familycenter@childcare.org

Q: If I have additional concerns about the health and safety of my child at a child care facility, who can I call?

A: Please call 1-866-END-HARM

Q: If I want to see the details of the complaint or suspension once it is complete, how do I get that information?

A: For all public disclosure and records release requests, please contact our public records department at <https://dcyf.wa.gov/public-records>. You may also access some information on Child Care Check at <https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/child-care-check>.

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov).

DCYF PUBLICATION LIC_0077 (07-2022)



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES