



CDSS

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

NEWS RELEASE

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STATE TO INCREASE PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN IN DAY CARE

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) today announced that it is preparing to implement new procedures enacted by Governor Schwarzenegger that will strengthen protections for children in more than 56,000 licensed day care facilities. These procedures will provide parents with prompt and detailed disclosure of serious health and safety violations and refer them to a Statewide Web site that lists information about registered sex offenders.

The Governor recently signed [AB 633](#) and [AB 2196](#) into law to ensure parents receive accurate, timely information about violations that occur in child care facilities and that they are made aware of the Megan's Law Web site containing the names and addresses or community of residence of registered sex offenders.

"Child safety is our highest priority," said CDSS Interim Director Cliff Allenby. "We believe these new procedures will help parents make informed decisions in choosing their children's day care provider."

Effective January 1, 2007, CDSS will implement the new legislation, which requires day care facilities to notify parents as soon as possible concerning serious problems in their child's day care. Among the requirements established by AB 633, also known as "Aryanna's Law," a licensed child care operator must provide parents or guardians with:

- Copies of documents showing violations that represent an immediate risk to the health and safety or civil rights of children in the facility.
- Documents involving any conference with State licensing representatives concerning noncompliance issues in the facility.
- Summaries of any "accusations" indicating the State's intent to revoke the license of a child care facility.

When enrolling their children in day care, parents or guardians must receive copies of these documents covering facility violations and actions over the previous year.

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Under AB 2196, CDSS will include information about the Department of Justice's Megan's Law Web site on all parents' rights posters and notification of parents' rights forms provided by the licensed day care operators at the time the child is enrolled in a licensed family child care home or child care center.

To ensure that child care facilities are in compliance with the new mandates, CDSS will require its Community Care Licensing staff, during their inspection visits, to check each file of children in day care to verify parents have received the required documents. In addition, the licensee of a day care facility will be required to provide verification that their potential facility director has completed an orientation given by CDSS within 90 days of employing that director.

Earlier this year, the Governor called on CDSS to strengthen the process for protecting children by immediately developing regulations requiring criminal background clearance of license-exempt child care providers through the Trustline registry before they are eligible for payment. The proposed regulations, released last week for public comment, will ensure children in subsidized child care whose provider is a relative or unlicensed person will receive the same protections as children in licensed child care.

These added safeguards compliment CDSS' ongoing efforts to reform and improve California's Community Care Licensing program and reflect the Administration's continuing commitment to protect children in licensed care facilities. The 2006-07 State budget includes an investment of more than \$6 million to fund 80 new staff positions in CDSS' licensing program.

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