

Child Care Regulations in Nevada

Overview

A summary of child care regulations in Nevada.

- Types of care that must be licensed
- Types of care that may operate without a license
- Subsidized child care
- Whom to contact
- Child abuse reporting
- Child care centers
- Group child care homes
- Family child care homes

Child care is regulated differently in every state, and sometimes even in different cities or counties in the same state. In Nevada, the Department of Human Resources, Division of Child and Family Services, Bureau of Services for Child Care licenses both part-day and full-day child care centers, preschools, infant/toddler nurseries, group child care homes, family child care homes, and outdoor youth programs and institutions. Other types of local regulation, such as zoning, health, building, and fire safety codes, may also apply to child care facilities.

In Nevada, if any county or incorporated city decides to establish its own licensing procedures in lieu of state licensing, the state will delegate the licensing authority provided that the local standards are no less restrictive than those of the state. Washoe County, the unincorporated areas of Clark County, and the cities of Las Vegas and Carson City have enacted local ordinances regulating child care.

This guide explains the level of quality required by child care regulations in Nevada. Some child care programs in the state operate at this level and some well above it. As a parent, you have your own standards and will look for providers you trust to meet them. Over time, your informed consumer choice and cooperation with the licensing agency can help raise the quality of child care in your community.

Both the law and licensing requirements are subject to change. To ensure that you have accurate and complete information, check with the licensing office to see whether there have been any changes since the information in this guide was last updated.

Types of care that must be licensed

Child care licensing is a type of regulatory activity in which the state gives permission to an individual or group to operate a child care facility. The Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child and Family Services, Bureau of Services for Child Care is responsible for monitoring compliance with state standards.

In Nevada, the following forms of child care must be licensed:

- *Child care centers.* Full- or part-time care in a non-residential setting for 13 or more children. In Nevada, this includes nursery schools, preschools, pre-kindergartens, and all child care centers including religiously affiliated centers.
- *Group child care homes.* Full- or part-time care in a residence for between seven and 12 children, not including the provider's own children.
- *Family child care homes.* Full- or part-time care in a residence for five or six children, not including the provider's own children.

More detailed information about child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes can be found later in this guide.

Types of care that may operate without a license

Some types of child care are not required to be licensed by the state. There are no agencies regulating or investigating these providers, except in the case of a complaint, so be sure to thoroughly check a provider's background and experience before choosing this type of care.

In Nevada, the following forms of child care are exempt from licensing:

- Care provided in the child's home
- Care provided by relatives
- Family child care homes providing full- or part-time care in a residence for between one and four children, except in Las Vegas, Washoe County, and unincorporated areas of Clark County

When children's programs are run by public and private elementary schools, the Department of Education is responsible for regulating them, with the exception of programs for children under kindergarten age in private elementary schools.

Subsidized child care

The Nevada Department of Human Resources Welfare Division makes funds available to families to assist them with child care payments by contracting with community-based organizations. The amount of the payments depends on family size and income. Recipients of these funds are usually low-income working families or families re-entering the workforce. Families who are eligible may receive assistance whether their child is in a family child care home or a child care center, as long as the type of care complies with state regulations.

For further information about program availability and how to qualify in Southern Nevada, call the Child Care Assistance Division at the Economic

Opportunity Board at 702-387-0985, and in Northern Nevada, call The Children's Cabinet at 775-856-6210.

Whom to contact

Local authorities in Carson City, Las Vegas, Clark County, and Washoe County have additional regulations, so be sure to check with the local licensing agency for more information on child care licensing in the area.

For more detailed information regarding child care regulations in Nevada, to obtain a copy of the state standards, or to report licensing violations, call:

**Nevada Department of Human Resources
Division of Child and Family Services
Bureau of Services for Child Care
711 East 5th Street
Carson City, NV 89701
775-684-4400**

The Child Care Licensing Bureau does not license child care facilities in the localities listed below. Call these agencies for information on child care in these locations:

**Carson City city limits
Carson City Environmental Health Department
3303 Butti Way, Building 1
Carson City, NV 89701
775-887-2190**

**Las Vegas city limits
City of Las Vegas Privilege License Division
Department of Business Services
400 East Stewart Avenue
P.O. Box 1900
Las Vegas, NV 89125
702-229-6281**

**Clark County (unincorporated area)
Clark County Social Services
1600 Pinto Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89106
702-455-3894**

Washoe County
Washoe County Department of Social Services
Child Care Licensing
Wells Avenue at 9th Street
P.O. Box 11130
Reno, NV 89520-0027
775-328-2300

Child abuse reporting

The staffs of all child care facilities are required to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect to the state or to police. To report suspected child abuse, call 800-992-5757, or in Clark County (Las Vegas metro) call 702-339-0081, or in Washoe County call 775-328-2300, or contact your local law enforcement agency.

Child care centers

Licenses

- Must be licensed and renewed annually.
- License must be posted.
- General liability insurance is required.
- Professional liability insurance is not required.

State inspection

- Inspection is required prior to licensing.
- At least two unannounced inspections are made annually
- Inspection is required after a complaint.

Staff:child ratios

Infant-toddler nurseries

- Birth to 9 months: one staff for up to four infants (1:4)
- 9 to 18 months: one staff for up to six infants (1:6)
- 18 months to 3 years: one staff for up to eight children (1:8)

In mixed infant/toddler groups, the ratio is determined by averaging the ages and using the applicable ratio for the average.

Child care centers

- 2 to 3 years: one staff for up to 10 children (1:10)

Children 2 years old and older

- One staff for up to six children
- Two staff for 7 to 20 children
- Three staff for 21 to 35 children
- Four staff for 36 to 50 children
- Five staff for 51 to 65 children
- Six staff for 66 to 80 children
- Seven staff for 81 to 93 children

For every 13 children above 93, one more caregiver is required.

Before- and after-school care for school-age children may be provided with permission for up to three or more children or 10 percent more children (whichever is greater) than the program is licensed for.

School-age care may be provided for no more than three hours.

Maximum group size

- No requirements

Staff qualifications

Facility director

- Must be at least 21 years old.
- Must be present 25 hours per week or 50 percent of total hours that center is in operation.
- Must have one of the following:
 - Bachelor's degree (with 12 credits in child-related area) plus six months of experience
 - High school diploma (with 12 credits in child-related area) plus two years of experience
 - Current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential

Staff

- May be 16 years old if supervised and have completed or be currently enrolled in a child development course.
- No more than 50 percent of staff can be under 18 years old.
- Staff 18 years of age and older must have completed or be currently enrolled in a Bureau-approved child development course.

Staff training

- Directors and all staff must have 12 hours of training annually.
- Directors must have special training to direct care for infants, toddlers, mildly ill, and special needs children.
- Staff must attend a center orientation program on policies, procedures, and programs of the facility.

CPR and first aid

- All staff must be trained in first aid.
- One person trained in CPR, first aid, and illness recognition must be present at all times.

Staff medical requirements

- Must have TB test prior to hiring and every two years.
- No immunization requirements.
- Physical exam is not required.
- AIDS test is not required.
- Drug and alcohol tests are not required.

Staff background checks

- Federal and state criminal and child abuse background checks are required prior to hiring.
- Fingerprinting and criminal checks must be repeated every six years.
- Child abuse checks must be repeated annually.
- Fingerprinting is required with a release form.
- Director must have three references; references not required for staff unless by facility.

Discipline

- Certain methods of discipline, including corporal punishment, are prohibited.

Parents' rights

- Must be notified of reportable communicable disease.
- May visit at any time.
- Must receive copies of operating policies and procedures.

- Must aid in planning experiences that ensure harmony with lifestyle and cultural background of the children.
- Must be notified of any accident, injury, or illness when more serious than a minor cut or scratch.

Health and safety requirements

- Outdoor play area must be fenced.
- Hazardous or toxic materials must be inaccessible to children.
- Must hold fire drills monthly.
- Must have annual fire inspections.
- Must post an emergency evacuation plan.
- Must hold natural disaster drills every three months.
- Must have a sign-in/sign-out sheet for children.
- Must have a working phone.
- Emergency numbers must be posted by the phone.
- Must have written authorization to release the child to an adult other than the parent.
- Must have a first-aid kit.
- Doors and windows must be screened.
- Pets must be healthy, friendly, and vaccinated.
- Smoking is prohibited.

Child medical requirements

- Must have a health screening within 30 days of admission.
- Must have age-appropriate immunizations, including for hepatitis B.
- Must have written consent from the parent to administer medications.

Care for sick children

- Programs must hold a special license to care for mildly ill children.
- Programs without a specific license to care for sick children must isolate children when they become ill and parents must be notified to remove them immediately.

Group child care homes

Licenses

- Must be licensed and renewed annually.
- License must be posted.
- General liability insurance is required.
- Professional liability insurance is not required.

State inspection

- Inspection is required prior to licensing.
- At least two unannounced inspections are made annually.
- Unannounced inspection is made after a complaint.

Staff:child ratios

- Birth to 12 months: one staff for up to two infants (1:2)
- 12 to 24 months: one staff for up to four children (1:4)
- 24+ months: one staff for up to six children (1:6)

Maximum group size

- May care for up to 12 children with no more than eight children under 3 years old and no more than four children under 12 months old.
- An assistant must be present for more than six children, more than four children under 2 years old, or more than two children under 12 months old.
- Three caregivers must be present when eight or more children have special needs.
- May provide care before and after school for three additional school-age children under 10 years old living in the home (who are deducted from allowable children only when school is in operation).

Staff qualifications

Provider

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must reside in the home
- Must have 12 hours of training in a child-related area

Assistant/aide

- May be at least 16 years old if supervised and have completed training in child development

Staff training

- Initial six hours of training related to child development and health and safety
- Must have 12 hours annually

CPR and first aid

- One person trained in CPR and first aid must be present at all times.

Staff medical requirements

- Must have TB test prior to hiring and every two years.
- No immunization requirements.
- Physical exam is not required.
- AIDS test is not required.
- Drug and alcohol tests are not required.

Staff background checks

- Prior to licensing, criminal background checks are required for all caregivers and adult family members; checks are required every six years thereafter.
- Child abuse checks are required annually for all caregivers.
- Fingerprinting is required with a release form.

Discipline

- Certain methods of discipline, including corporal punishment, are prohibited.

Parents' rights

- Must be notified of reportable communicable disease.
- May visit at any time.
- Must be notified immediately of any accident, injury, or illness requiring medical attention.
- Must be informed of the name and phone number of any substitute.
- Must be notified if anyone in the home smokes.

Health and safety requirements

- Must comply with local ordinances.

- Outdoor play area must be fenced.
- Hazardous or toxic materials must be inaccessible to children.
- Must have annual fire inspections.
- Must hold fire drills monthly.
- Must post an emergency evacuation plan.
- Must hold natural disaster drills every three months.
- Must have a sign-in/sign-out sheet for children.
- Must have a working phone.
- Emergency numbers must be posted by the phone.
- Must have written authorization to release the child to an adult other than the parent.
- Must have a first-aid kit.
- Doors and windows must be screened.
- Pets must be healthy, friendly, and vaccinated.
- Smoking is prohibited except in designated areas approved by the state fire marshal.

Child medical requirements

- Must have a health screening within 30 days of admission.
- Must have age-appropriate immunizations, including for hepatitis B.
- Screening for blood lead levels is not required.

Care for sick children

- Programs must hold a special license to care for mildly ill children.
- Programs without a specific license to care for sick children must isolate children when they become ill and parents must be notified to remove them immediately.

Family child care homes

Licenses

- Must be licensed and renewed annually.
- License must be posted.
- General liability insurance is required.

- Professional liability insurance is not required.

State inspection

- Inspection is required prior to licensing.
- At least two unannounced inspections are made annually.
- Unannounced inspection is made after a complaint.

Staff:child ratios

- One staff for up to six children (1:6)

Maximum group size

- May care for up to six children, with no more than four children under 2 years old and no more than two children under 12 months old.
- When four or more children have special needs, an assistant must be present.
- May provide care before and after school for three additional school-age children when school is in operation; children under 10 years old living in the home are deducted from allowable children.

Staff qualifications

Provider

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must reside in the home (except in Carson City)
- Must have 12 hours of training in a child-related area

Assistant

- May be 16 years old if supervised and have completed training in child development

Substitute

- Must have a substitute available at all times

Staff training

- Must have 12 hours of training annually
- Must have six hours of training annually in Clark County

CPR and first aid

- One person trained in CPR and first aid must be present at all times.

Staff medical requirements

- Must have TB test prior to hiring and every two years.

- No immunization requirements.
- Physical exam is not required.
- AIDS test is not required.
- Drug and alcohol tests are not required.

Staff background checks

- Criminal and child abuse background checks are required prior to licensure.
- Criminal checks must be repeated every six years.
- Child abuse checks must be repeated annually.

Discipline

- Certain methods of discipline, including corporal punishment, are prohibited.

Parents' rights

- Must be notified of reportable communicable disease.
- May visit at any time.
- Must be notified immediately of any accident, injury, or illness requiring medical attention.
- Must be informed of the name and phone number of any substitute.
- Must be notified if anyone in the home smokes.

Health & safety requirements

- Must comply with local ordinances.
- Outdoor play area must be fenced.
- Hazardous or toxic materials must be inaccessible to children.
- Must have annual fire inspections.
- Must hold fire drills monthly.
- Must post an emergency evacuation plan.
- Must hold natural disaster drills every three months.
- Must have a sign-in/sign-out sheet for children.
- Must have a working phone.
- Emergency numbers must be posted by the phone.

- Must have written authorization to release the child to an adult other than the parent.
- Must have a first-aid kit.
- Doors and windows must be screened.
- Pets must be healthy, friendly, and vaccinated.
- Smoking is permitted in designated areas only with notification.

Child medical requirements

- Must have a health screening within 30 days of admission.
- Must have age-appropriate immunizations, including for hepatitis B.

Care for sick children

- Programs must hold a special license to care for mildly ill children.
- Programs without a specific license to care for sick children must isolate children when they become ill and parents must be notified to remove them immediately.