



Key Message

In many cases, military family child care providers that are certified through Defense Department procedures must also be licensed or registered by the state, even when only caring for military children. By recognizing military family child care certification, in lieu of requiring state licensing, states can enhance access to child care for military families. States can also support Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS, increasing child care access for active-duty, National Guard and reserve families.

Analysis

By providing a provisional license, or by exempting family child care providers from licensure and registration that is duplicative of the certification they receive from the military services, states enhance the quality of life and economic security of both the providers and military families seeking qualified child care options.

Best Practices

1. Issuing a provisional license

EXAMPLE:

Florida Senate Bill 538

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=77308>

Bill summary: Senate Bill 538 requires the Florida Department of Children and Families, or the local licensing agency, to issue a provisional license or registration if the operator or owner of the family child care home has completed the Defense Department FCC certification process within the previous six months. The family child care provider has six months from the time they were issued the provisional license to complete the Florida licensing requirements.

2. Exemptions from licensure requirements

EXAMPLES:

Connecticut House Bill 5049, Section 1

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/act/Pa/pdf/2023PA-00029-R00HB-05049-PA.PDF>

“(b) For licensing requirement purposes, child care services shall not include such services which are: [...]

(14) Programs that exclusively provide care for children of members of the United States Coast Guard or any branch of the military under the United States Department of Defense and that are (A) administered by the federal government or on federal property, or (B) administered by a person certified as a family child care provider by the United States Coast Guard or a branch of the military under the United States Department of Defense.”

Title 7, Chapter 57, Section 15 (a)(2) of the Alaska Administrative Code

<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/aac.asp#7.57.015>



The Alaska Administrative Code provides for exemption from Alaskan child care requirements for “a facility located on a United States Department of Defense or United States Coast Guard installation that is located on federal property, or a facility certified as a family child care provider by a branch of the United States Department of Defense or by the United States Coast Guard;”

Montana House Bill 336, Section 1, Section 52-2-721

http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/LAW0210W%24BSIV.ActionQuery?P_BILL_NO1=336&P_BLTP_BILL_TYP_CD=HB&Z_ACTION=Find&P_SESS=20231

“(7) The department shall recognize the status of and may not require a state license for a facility that is licensed as a family child care provider or child care facility by a branch of the United States armed forces, including the United States coast guard.”

Oklahoma Senate Bill 1286

<http://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=SB1286&Session=2200>

“SECTION 1. AMENDATORY TO O.S. 2021, Section 403, is amended to read as follows:

Section 403. A. The provisions of the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act shall not apply to: [...]

17. A program on a military base or federal property, or a facility licensed as a family child care provider by a branch of the United States Department of Defense or by the United States Coast Guard.”

Note: The Oklahoma Department of Human Services requested the language in Senate Bill 1286 be changed from “facility certified” to “facility licensed” to align with Oklahoma code. As part of the discussions leading up to passage of SB 1286, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services acknowledged that the Defense Department-certification process was equivalent to the Oklahoma licensing process and would exempt DOD-certified family child care providers from the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act.

Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS Fast Facts

- Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood is the Defense Department’s child care fee assistance program for military families using civilian providers in the local community. Civilian providers must meet DOD requirements, which include a state license with annual licensing agency inspections, employee background checks and national accreditation.
- MCCYN-PLUS utilizes the states’ Quality Rating and Improvement Systems as an indicator of provider quality in lieu of national accreditation, broadening the pool of providers eligible to receive fee assistance on behalf of military families.
- The department launched a rapid expansion of the MCCYN-PLUS initiative in August 2022, inviting all states with a child care Quality Rating and Improvement System to join the effort.
- For more information, visit: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/parenting/child-care/mccyn-plus-child-care-program>.