

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Title of Rule: Family Child Care Home Regulations for Licensure

Rule Identifier: 218-RICR-70-00-2

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: May 21, 2026

Hearing Date: June 8, 2026

End of Public Comment: June 20, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-12.5

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

Technical revisions throughout document
Renumbered as needed
Removed references to substitutes throughout
Removed “subsequent to the promulgation of these regulations” through out
§ 2.1.2(C) Added R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-72.11 – Administrative Penalties for Child Care Licensing Violations
§ 2.1.3(A) Removed link. Changed 2005 to 2009. Added “by reference”
§ 2.1.3(C) Changed 2022 to 2019. Removed link.
§ 2.1.3(D) Removed link
§ 2.1.4(A)(8) Added definition of “Group family child care home”
§ 2.1.4(A)(11) Updated definition of “plan of corrective action”
§ 2.1.4(A)(12) Updated definition of “probationary license”
§ 2.1.4(A)(16) Added definition of “RISES”
§ 2.1.4(A)(17) Removed definition of “substitute”
§ 2.1.1(A)(3) Added language
§ 2.1.1(B)(1) Changed “at least one(1)” to “any”
§ 2.1.1(B)(2) Added language relating to “RISES”, removed “payable to the Rhode Island General Treasurer” Removed language regarding documents required for the application packet
§ 2.1.1(B)(4) Added language regarding initial licensure
§ 2.1.1(B)(7) Added language regarding incomplete initial applications
§ 2.1.1(C) Updated all language regarding license renewal
§ 2.1.1(D)(3) Removed “meet the requirements of the renewal process”, added “submit a digital renewal application in RISES”
§ 2.22(A)(7) Added “by completing a Program Closure Request in RISES.”
§ 2.22(B)(1) Removed “process” added “application in RISES”
§ 2.22(B)(1)(a) Added “digital”
§ 2.22(B)(2) Added “through the appropriate process in RISES”
§ 2.22(C)(2) Added language regarding monitoring visits
§ 2.22(D)(1)(c) changed “may be” to “is”
§ 2.22(D)(2)(e) Removed language regarding license not meeting requirements of renewal process. Added language regarding failure to provide the Department access.
§ 2.2.3(A) Removed “writing” added “RISES”
§ 2.2.3(B) Removed “written” added “formal”
§ 2.2.6 Updated language regarding holding a dual license
§ 2.3.1(A)(1)(a) Added “Life Safety Fire Inspection, completed by State Fire Marshal”
§ 2.3.1(A)(1)(b)((1)) Added “For buildings built after 1978, evidence of the construction date shall be provided.”
§ 2.3.1(D)(2)(a) Added “Providers applying for initial licensure must ensure that” Changed “must be” to “is”
§ 2.3.2(D)(1) Added “defined as any medication that can be purchased without a doctor’s prescription”
§ 2.3.2(D)(8) Added language regarding logging receipt and return of medication
§ 2.3.2(E)(4) Added language regarding documentation of health care plan
§ 2.3.2(G)(3)(g) Added “vaping”
§ 2.3.2(G)(3)(h) Added “or vaping”
§ 2.3.2(G)(4) Added “or vaping”
§ 2.3.2(G)(5) Added “or other controlled substances”
§ 2.3.2(M)(1) Added language regarding the emergency preparedness and response plan
§ 2.3.2(N)(4) Added “and must be visible by the staff sitting with children while eating.”
§ 2.3.3(A)(7) Added “in programs that enroll infants”
§ 2.3.4(A)(2)(a) Updated language
§ 2.3.4(A)(4) Removed language
§ 2.3.4(B)(1) Added “assistant on site”
§ 2.3.4(B)(2) Added “assistant on site”
§ 2.3.4(B)(2)(c) Changed “should” to “must”
§ 2.3.4(B)(2)(d) Removed language
§ 2.3.4(B)(3) Added language regarding Group Family Child Care Home
§ 2.3.4(B)(4) Updated chart
§ 2.3.4(C)(3)(a) Added “out of home request application in RISES” Removed

“written plan”

§ 2.3.4(D)(1)(g) Updated language regarding supervision

§ 2.3.5(B) Added “requirements for Group Family Child Care Home providers”

§ 2.3.5(D)(2) Added “are only responsible for emergency care”

§ 2.3.6(A)(1) Removed “in writing” added “via RISES”

§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(a) Added language regarding change of assistants

§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(b) Added “by submitting a Change of Household Member application”

§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(c) Added “by submitting a Name Change Request application”

§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(d) Added “by submitting a Change of Address application”

§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(e) Added “and/or intent to change the number of children served by submitting a Change of Capacity application”

§ 2.3.6(A)(1)(f) Removed “intents to change the numbers or ages of children served”

§ 2.3.6(A)(9) Removed “and substitute file” Added “have a complete workforce registry profile in RISES that” and updated requirements needed in the complete workforce registry

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until June 20, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Tara Borges

Department of Human Services

Office of Policy Analysis, Research and Development, Department of Human Services

Hazard Building, 41 West Road, Bldg. 74

Cranston, RI 02920

DHS.PolicyFeedBack@dhs.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: June 8, 2026

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Location: West Wing Conference Room

Louis Pasteur Building

25 Howard Avenue, Bldg. 57

Cranston, RI, 02920

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 800-745-6575 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

These updates incorporate the Rhode Island Start Early System (RISES) into the regulations, and revise outdated, unclear, or inconsistent language to improve clarity and usability. This amendment ensures that Rhode Island families have access to safe childcare.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.