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Sent: Friday, July 01, 2016 10:29 AM

To: DSS_Licensing

Subject: Legislative Implementation 2016

The attached file is being sent to providers of children residential facilities, child placing agencies, independent foster homes and child caring institutions from the Virginia Department of Social Services Email Distribution Service.

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: June 30, 2016

TO: Children's Residential Facilities
Licensed Child-Placing Agencies
Independent Foster Homes
Child Caring Institutions

FROM: Charlene Vincent, Children's Programs Director
Division of Licensing Programs

SUBJECT: Legislative Implementation 2016

This memo provides information on the legislative changes that will take place July 1, 2016.

Sex Offender Registry (HB 920)

[House Bill 920](#) changes the definition of "offense" in § [63.2-1719](#) in the Code of Virginia to include convictions that results in the requirement to register with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry or any similar registry in any other state. This prohibits sex offenders from being employed by or operating a child welfare agency.

It is recommended but not required that providers search the Virginia Sex Offender Registry to determine if an individual is listed on this registry, and print out the results of the search. The link to this free search is: <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/index.html>; click on the left hand panel 'Search the Sex Offender Registry'. The list of crimes that convictions of which require registration in the Sex Offender Registry is found at: http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/licensing/fdh/intro_page/background_investigations/guidance_procedures/convictions.pdf.

Penalty for Unlicensed Providers (HB 1189)

[House Bill 1189](#) adds language to § [18.2-371.1](#) of the Code of Virginia making a Class 4 felony for situations when a person responsible for the care of a child, by willful act or willful omission or refusal to provide care for the child's health, causes or permits serious injury to the life or health of the child. Willful act or willful omission includes operating or engaging in the conduct of a child welfare agency without first obtaining a license or after the license has been revoked or has expired and not been renewed.

If you have any questions please contact your licensing specialist.