

From: **Edwina Williams** <edwina.williams@dss.virginia.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 2:16 PM
Subject: Legislative Implementation 2018
To: DSS_LICENSING@listserv.cov.virginia.gov

The attached file is being sent to religiously exempt child day centers from the Virginia Department of Social Services Email Distribution Service.

*****Please do not reply to this email.*****

To unsubscribe from the DSS_LICENSING list, click the following link:
https://listserv.cov.virginia.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=DSS_LICENSING&A=1

SCROLL DOWN TO VIEW ATTACHMENT



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: June 29, 2018

TO: Religious Exempt Child Day Centers

FROM: Tara Ragland, Interim Director
Division of Licensing- Children's Programs

SUBJECT: 2018 Legislative Implementation

The purpose of this memo is to make you aware of new requirements for religiously exempt child day centers.

House Bill 545

[HB 545](#) requires child day centers seeking exemption from licensure as a religious institution to file with the Commissioner of Social Services documentary evidence that the individual seeking to operate the child day center is not currently ineligible to operate another child welfare agency due to a suspension or revocation of his license or license exemption for reasons involving child safety or any criminal conviction, including fraud, related to such child welfare agency. This information must be filed prior to beginning operation and annually thereafter.

Effective July 1, 2018, a requirement has been added to the *Statement of Intent* form. The *Statement of Intent* has been updated to include a statement about eligibility to operate a child welfare agency related to a suspension or revocation of a license or license exemption. Religiously exempt child day center providers do not need to immediately submit a new statement of intent. When annual documentation is due, the revised *Statement of Intent* form located on the VDSS website needs to be used.

Senate Bill 539

[SB 539](#) incorporates the recommendations of the "Child Day Programs Exempt from Licensure" study that was submitted last year to the Governor and General Assembly. It clarifies who should be considered a child day program and redefines the list of programs that are exempt from licensure. The legislation establishes basic health and safety requirements for certain exempt programs and requires exempt programs to report serious physical injuries or deaths of children in care. Certain exempt programs will be required to file annually with DSS and indicate which exemption they are using, and will be subject to complaint inspections if the exemption

requirements are not followed. **This legislation does not go into effect until July 1, 2019.** DSS will provide updates on the changes from this legislation next year.

House Bill 873 and Senate Bill 121 (Identical bills)

[HB 873](#) and SB 121 extends the expiration date for legislation established during the 2017 General Assembly session requiring fingerprint based background check requirements for child day care providers. As written, the legislation was set to expire July 1, 2018. HB 873 and SB 121 extend the expiration date to July 1, 2020.

Additionally, we are reviewing all of our documents and information about religious exempt child day centers on the VDSS website and updating materials to reflect current law. Please keep the licensing office updated if there are email address changes and remember to check the [webpage](#) to obtain the most current forms before submitting annual documentation.

Please contact your licensing office if you have any questions.