

Reporting on Child Safety and Well-being in Child Caring Agencies (CCAs)

Summary

Senate Bill 1515 increases DHS oversight of private child caring agencies, requires more comprehensive background checks for foster homes certified by the private child caring agencies (CCA), gives DHS tools to enforce child safety requirements and increases leadership accountability. SB 1515 requires DHS to vigorously monitor and enforce licensing regulations and focus on child safety first and foremost. The goal is to keep children safe; ensuring DHS licensed CCAs are providing high quality care in full compliance with regulations. SB 1515 also requires DHS employees to report concerns involving a CCA to the DHS Director or designee. The bill take effect on July 1, 2016.

What is a child caring agency (CCA)?

A child caring agency is a private (non-governmental) agency, organization, or school licensed by the Department of Human Services to provide care and services to children. These include academic boarding schools, foster care agencies, adoption agencies, residential care agencies, day treatment agencies and outdoor youth programs. A list of all 200 licensed agencies is available online <https://inside.dhsoha.state.or.us/dhs/child-welfare/licensed-child-caring-agencies.html>

How does my reporting obligation change under SB1515?

DHS employees still have a duty to report suspected abuse of children, seniors and people with disabilities pursuant to mandatory reporting laws. SB 1515 goes further and specifically directs DHS staff to report any licensing abuses, deficiencies, violations or failures to comply as well as concerns regarding child health safety or welfare immediately to the DHS Director. For example If you have reasonable cause to believe that a CCA is not operating in a manner that ensures children have a safe and healthy environment, enough food or necessary hygiene products you must report your concern to the DHS Director or designee. The Director is required by state law to take immediate and appropriate action.

How do I make a report about a CCA?

Concerns about a CCA can be reported by;
Call: 503-945-6843 during business hours
Email: CCA.reports@dhsoha.state.or.us

What happens if I don't report or the Director doesn't take immediate action??

Under SB 1515, failure of a DHS employee to report or the DHS Director to take immediate action regarding a CCA constitutes official misconduct in the second degree.