Family Child Care Licensing

POLICY STATEMENT: Use of Regular Assistants in Family Child Care Homes

According to 606 CMR 7.09(15)(c)2a, a regular assistant may be alone, on the premises, with a maximum of six children for up to 25 hours in a 12 month period or up to eight hours in a seven day period, provided the assistant is currently certified in first aid and CPR. The purpose of this regulation is to:

- limit the amount of time that children in family child care are left alone with a caregiver who does not meet the qualifications of the provider, and

- allow the provider to operate her business during occasional absences for medical or other personal business appointments that cannot be scheduled during non-child care hours.

In order to limit the amount of time that children may be left with a caregiver who does not meet the qualifications of the provider, no provider may leave their child care children with an uncertified assistant for more than a total of 8 hours per week or a total of 25 hours per year, no matter how many assistants he/she uses. The maximum amount of time child care children may be left alone with any number of regular assistants is 25 hours in one year, and no more than 8 hours in any seven day period.

To assist providers in continuing child care during occasional absences for personal business, a regular assistant may substitute for and be left alone with the children in any number of different family child care homes for up to 8 hours per week or 25 hours per year per family child care home, provided the assistant has current certification in First Aid and CPR. In other words, the aggregate number of hours that a regular assistant may be left alone with child care children in a variety of homes may be greater than the 8 hours per week or 25 hours per year, but those limits apply to each family child care home separately.

Regular assistants may work with a provider or Certified Assistant for any length of time when the provider or Certified Assistant is on the child care premises.

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