

Jim Doyle
Governor

Reggie Bicha
Secretary

Dan Harris
Administrator



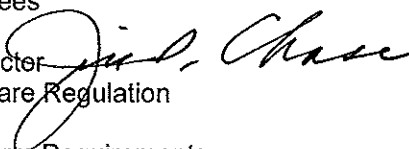
St. in
Department of Children and Families
Division of Early Care and Education

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916

Telephone: 608-267-3905
Fax: 608-266-6836
dcf.wisconsin.gov

July 2, 2009

To: Family Child Care Center Licensees
Group Child Care Center Licensees
Day Camp Licensees
BECR MEMO 2009-05

From: Jill D. Chase, Director 
Bureau of Early Care Regulation

RE: Vehicle Safety Alarm Requirements

Effective August 1, 2009, any vehicle that is owned, leased or contracted for by a child care center must have a vehicle safety alarm installed before children are transported. This requirement is the result of a new law that takes effect on August 1, 2009.

The law defines a child care vehicle as "a vehicle that has a seating capacity of 6 or more passengers in addition to the driver, that is owned or leased by the child care provider, and that is used to transport children to and from the child care provider." A child safety alarm is defined as "an alarm system that prompts the driver of a child care vehicle to inspect the child care vehicle for children before exiting the child care vehicle. The law applies to vehicles that are owned or leased by a child care provider or owned or leased by a contractor of a child care provider.

The law specifies that no person may knowingly transport a child or permit a child to be transported in a child care vehicle in which a child safety alarm has not been installed, is not properly maintained, or is not in good working order. The law further specifies that no person may remove, disconnect, tamper with or otherwise circumvent the operation of a child safety alarm that is installed in a child care vehicle except for the purpose of testing, repairing or maintaining the alarm or replacing or disposing of a malfunctioning alarm. No person may shut off a child safety alarm that is installed in a child care vehicle unless the person first inspects the vehicle to ensure that no child is left unattended in the vehicle. Any person who violates these provisions can be found guilty of a felony. In addition, the Department of Children and Families may impose sanctions up to and including revocation of the child care center license if the provisions of this law are violated.

The law does not require the Department of Children and Families to approve the child safety alarms, but rather directs the department to make information about child safety alarms available to child care providers. Attached is a list of some alarms that will meet the requirements in the law. This list will be posted on the Department's internet site: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/BRL/2009/2009_05_attachment.pdf with additional links posted as they become available.

Please contact your licensing specialist if you have any questions about any of the information in this memo. Thank you for your efforts to protect the health, safety and welfare of children in your care.

Memos available electronically

We encourage all child care licensees to sign up for the Bureau of Early Care Regulation list serve so that centers may receive communication via e-mail. Follow this link to sign up for the list serve:
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/signup.htm>

Attachment