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The Director of the Department of Public Health & Social Services would like to announce the enactment of Public Law 31-73 on June 2, 2011, **An Act to Establish the Administrative Rules and Regulations of the Department of Public Health and Social Services relative to Child Care Facilities and Group Child Care Homes.** The new law reflects standards that support the health, safety, and development of our young children in child care settings.

Some changes to the standards include:

- **Changes in Child to Staff Ratios** - Existing child care facilities and group child care homes have 2 years to get into compliance from birth – 4 years and up; For ages 13 months to 2 years, facilities have three (3) years to come into compliance. In addition, early childhood directors are no longer counted in the child to staff ratio.
- **Professional Development** – DPHSS has 120 days to submit rules and regulations for Guam's Professional Development Plan. Early childhood assistants and teachers in all child care, Head Start and related early years settings must reflect competencies, experience, activities and learning that improve performance and ability to provide quality care and education. The plan provides for two (2) paths for certification. By 2014, 25% of early childhood providers employed by the child care facility shall meet the requirements of Level 2 Early Childhood Lead Provider.
- **Playground Equipment** - DPHSS has 120 days to submit rules and regulations based upon the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Handbook for Public Playground Safety which should be applicable for Guam.

- **License Fees and Effective Dates of License** - the new non-refundable fees for the issuance of a license to operate a child care facility or group child care home is as follows:

New License	\$175.00
Renewal License	\$200.00
Duplicate License	\$ 35.00
Amended License	\$120.00
Provisional License (New)	\$175.00
Provisional License (Renewal)	\$200.00

In addition, upon issuance of a new or renewal license, the license shall expire no later than **two (2) years** after the date of issuance.

- **Provisions for Appeal and Hearing** – Provides for the right to appeal and an opportunity for a hearing whenever a License is to be denied, suspended, or revoked.
- **Licensing of Early Childhood Educational-type Facilities** – Early childhood classrooms for children below kindergarten and after-school programs if not accredited or under contract of an accredited institution, must meet licensing requirements.

The Administrative Rules and Regulations can be viewed and accessed online at the DPHSS website: <http://dphss.guam.gov>.

The department will be conducting an Information Community Orientation on these rules and regulations scheduled for June 25, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the University of Guam Lecture Hall.

For special accommodations, please contact the Bureau of Social Services Administration on or by the end of the work day by 5:00 p.m. of June 22, 2011. Contact numbers are 475-2653/2672.


JAMES W. GILLAN