

Sec. 7-9. - Transportation.

This section establishes the minimum standards for transportation of children enrolled in child care facilities. In the case of a direct conflict between any provision of this section and a provision of any other applicable federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation, the more restrictive provision shall apply.

(a) An owner or director of a child care facility who transports children must ensure that the facility complies with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations applicable to transportation of children including, but not limited to, Chapter 316, Florida Statutes, "State Uniform Traffic Control," Chapter 322, Florida Statutes, "Driver's Licenses," and the rules and regulations set forth in Rule 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code, relating to transportation of children enrolled in child care facilities, as amended.

(b) Any person who drives a vehicle transporting children for a child care facility must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age. If the driver is an employee of an entity under contract with the child care facility or a vehicle leasing company, the driver must be under the direct and constant supervision of the child care facility's personnel when children are being transported.

(c) Child Safety Alarm Devices.

(1) Effective July 1, 2013, any vehicle designed or used to transport six (6) or more passengers and one (1) driver must have a child safety alarm device installed. The alarm device must be periodically tested and properly maintained in working order at all times.

(2) The alarm device must be designed to automatically activate when the vehicle's ignition is turned on. Alarm devices that are activated manually are prohibited.

(3) The alarm device must be designed so that the vehicle horn, siren, or other type of audible alarm will sound within one (1) minute if the driver, or a child care facility staff member, does not go to the rear or back seat of the vehicle, or, in the case of a passenger van, does not open the side entry door of the vehicle, to manually shut off the alarm prior to leaving the vehicle. The alarm must be audible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet from the vehicle.

(4) The alarm device must be installed so that the driver, or a child care facility staff member, is able to observe the rearmost seats of the vehicle and reach the switch that turns off the alarm prior to leaving the vehicle. The driver, or a child care facility staff member, must physically inspect each seat before turning off the alarm and leaving the vehicle.

(5) The alarm device must be installed by any certified technician or mechanic employed by an electronics or automotive business in accordance with the device manufacturer's recommendations.

(6) The owner or director of a child care facility shall be responsible for selecting an alarm device that meets the required performance standards outlined herein, and ensuring that the device is installed and maintained pursuant to the manufacturer's specifications.

(d) Documentation demonstrating proof of compliance with the requirements of this section shall be maintained on file at the child care facility for inspection by the licensing agency.

(Ord. No. 2004-02, § 1, 2-10-04; Ord. No. 2012-35, § 1, 12-11-12)