

FACT SHEET

Child Care Licensing Regulation

Community Care and Assisted Living Act

OUTCOME-BASED STANDARDS

The new Child Care Licensing Regulation includes both outcome-based and more prescriptive standards aimed at protecting the health, safety and well being of children.

What is the purpose of the Child Care Licensing Regulation?

The purpose of the child care licensing regulation is to ensure children in care are safe from harm and that they have opportunities for social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth. The regulation establishes minimum health and safety standards to ensure that all children, no matter their age, developmental level or physical ability, have the same opportunity to benefit from child care.



What is a standard?

A standard is a rule that describes a desired level of performance against which actual performance can be compared. The Child Care Licensing Regulation includes both outcome-based and prescriptive standards.

What is an outcome-based standard?

An outcome-based standard tells the operator **what** is to be achieved, but allows flexibility in **how** it is achieved. The emphasis is on the result rather than on how that result is achieved. The use of outcome-based standards recognizes that there may be a variety of ways to achieve the same end.

An example of an outcome-based standard is Section 15 (1) of the Child Care Licensing Regulation that requires a licensee to provide equipment, furniture, and supplies that

are of sturdy and safe construction, easy to clean, and free from hazards. This standard does not specify exactly what type of toys and equipment must be used by describing their size, type, or material, but simply states that they must be safe and easily cleaned; this gives the licensee the flexibility to choose safe equipment that is best suited to the needs of the children.

Outcome-based standards are flexible and allow licensees to provide safe, individualized care based on the age and developmental level of the children.

What is a prescriptive standard?

A prescriptive standard makes specific and precise requirements. There is usually no flexibility or discretion allowed in meeting such requirements.

An example of a prescriptive standard is section 47 of the Child Care Licensing Regulation that requires a



licensee to ensure that hot water accessible to children is heated to no more than 49° Celsius. This regulation details exactly what is expected of the licensee by giving a precise temperature that has been determined to be safe. A prescriptive standard such as this is efficient as it releases licensees from the need to determine a safe water temperature.

The Child Care Licensing Regulation has both outcome-based and prescriptive standards to ensure the health, safety and well being of children in care and, where possible, provide flexibility for licensees.

For more information

Contact the local health authority community care licensing program and speak with a licensing officer.

This information is not to be regarded as a substitute for the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* and regulations or legal advice. If you require legal advice about the issues the issues discussed here please contact independent legal counsel.

