

For child care providers

Licensing summary suspensions and revocations

The Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL) is a regulatory agency that licenses more than 6,000 family home, center and school-age based child care programs.

Our goal is to help make sure children are safe and healthy while in licensed care. If a child care provider shows he or she cannot meet state health and safety rules, we may take action against the license.

What is a summary suspension?

A summary suspension is a legal action that temporarily closes a child care facility. State law (RCW 43.215) authorizes DEL to suspend a license when there are immediate health and safety risks to children in a child care facility.

What happens when a license is suspended?

When a child care facility is summarily suspended, DEL notifies the licensee in writing, and the facility and its operations must close immediately.

If the licensee disagrees with the suspension, he or she may appeal and appear before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to request a "stay." A stay allows the facility to remain open until a hearing is held. The ALJ hears the facts of the case and makes a determination, which

is the final step in the appeals process.

What is a revocation?

A revocation is a legal action that formally and permanently closes a child care license, which means the child care facility may not reopen.

State law (RCW 43.215) authorizes DEL to revoke a license when a licensee demonstrates noncompliance with laws and regulations. A revocation generally involves, but is not limited to, repeated violations of child care licensing rules. This occurs when no other action will remedy the concerns.

What happens when a license is revoked?

A licensee is notified in writing of the action. The notification includes the date the facility must close, the reason for DEL's decision and an explanation of the licensee's due process rights.

If a licensee disagrees with the action, he or she can do one of two things:

1. Appeal the action by submitting paperwork within 28 days to the state Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH).
2. Accept DEL's decision and close the facility.



Visit DEL's website for more information about due process, laws and rules related to child care licensing:

www.del.wa.gov/laws/Default.aspx



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Early Learning