



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Deliver, Support, Serve

Suspension and Expulsion Policy Implementation Memo

Date: February 25, 2020

To: Purchase of Care Providers

From: Delaware Health and Social Services, Division of Social Services

RE: Delaware's Suspension and Expulsion Best Practice Statement

The Division of Social Services, in partnership with several other agencies is responsible for administering the Child Care and Development Fund Program (CCDF), which includes our state's child care subsidy program also known as the Purchase of Care (POC) program. The CCDF program is federally funded and is authorized by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, which is federal law. In 2014, these laws were revised to support equitable access to child care for children in households with low incomes, and to enhance the health and safety of children who attend the state's early care and education programs.

One of the revisions included a nationwide mandate to address the high rates of suspension and expulsion of children from early care and education programs. States were also mandated to address the racial disparity involved in this practice as research shows that African American children (boys and girls), are being suspended and/or expelled at rates higher than their peers, although they make up a smaller percentage of the population attending these programs. States were strongly encouraged to develop statewide suspension and expulsion policies. The state of Delaware chose to develop a statewide policy, which serves as Delaware's policy on suspension and expulsion. This can be used by your programs as a reference for developing your individual suspension and expulsion policies. Delaware's policy on suspension and expulsion can be found on the State's comprehensive consumer education website at Mychildde.org.

Also, the new licensing regulation, effective May 1, 2019 for newly licensed programs and November 1, 2019 for facilities already licensed, requires all licensed programs to have a suspension and expulsion policy. Licensing regulations can be found on the Delaware Office of Child Care Licensing [website](#). Compliance with these regulations for already licensed providers will be verified at their next annual compliance review.

Delaware's policy regarding suspension and expulsion was developed in September 2018 by a multidisciplinary team of early care and education professionals. This group meets

monthly and is currently planning a full implementation process, which will include data collection, training, supports and resources for all licensed providers. When these plans are finalized, you will receive additional communication.

Please direct all inquiries regarding this communication to Belvie Herbert at, belvie.herbert@delaware.gov.

Thank you for all that you do for Delaware's children!

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