

UNREGISTERED FAMILY DAY CARE

INFORMATION ABOUT SCREENING FOR SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

South Dakota law defines family day care as giving care to twelve or fewer children from more than one unrelated family in a family home. This includes any of the provider's own children who are under the age of six years who are living in the home. Registration with the Department of Social Services is required by law if the provider is being reimbursed through the use of public funds. (Public Food Program, Child Care and Development Block Grant and At Risk Child Care Programs, etc.) Providers of family day care who do not receive public funding are not required by law to register.

The registration process provides some protections to families who utilize the services of a day care provider in that references are checked and the provider's name is screened against South Dakota's Central Registry of Child Abuse/Neglect and for substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect. This is done in an effort to screen out potential or known perpetrators of child abuse/neglect before issuing a Certificate of Registration. The Central Registry is a listing of individuals who have been found to have perpetrated child abuse/neglect either through a court finding or Department of Social Services investigation.

Effective July 1, 1988, South Dakota law allows unregistered family day care providers and their adult family members who live in the home to request the Department of Social Services to screen their names against the Central Registry to determine if they have been convicted of child abuse or a sex offense. Effective July 1, 1993, screening may also be done to determine if those individuals have substantiated Abuse or Neglect reports which did not result in a conviction. This may only be done at the individual's request and is not mandatory. Families who utilize the services of unregistered providers may not submit their provider's name for screening, but they may ask their provider to make such a request.

If you are an unregistered family day care provider, or an adult family member living in the home of an unregistered family day care home, you may request to have your name screened against the Central Registry and for substantiated reports of abuse or neglect by completing the attached release of information and sending it to:

Central Registry Check
Child Protection Services
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

A separate request form must be completed by each individual whose name is to be screened. Additional forms may be obtained at your local Department of Social Services office or by writing to the above state address.

You may request information regarding registration and the Child Care Food Program by contacting your local Department of Social Services Office.

