Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter B, Administration and Communication

Division 3, Required Postings

TAC Section Number(s) §746.401, §746.403

Final Action

201602214 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Amendment

X Adopted With Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The amendments are adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The amendments implement HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.401. What items must I post at my child-care center at all times?

You must post the following items:

(1) - (3) (No change.)

(4) Your emergency evacuation and relocation diagram as specified in §746.5207 of this title (relating to Must I have an emergency evacuation and relocation diagram?);

(5) - (6) (No change.)

(7) The Licensing *Parent Notification Poster;*

(8) (No change.)

(9) A list entitled "Current Employees." The list must be at least 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches in size, printed legibly, and must include each employee's first and last name;

(10) A list of each child's food allergies that require an emergency plan, as specified in §746.3819 of this title (relating to When must I have a food allergy emergency plan for a child?); and

(11) Any other Licensing notices with specific instructions to post the notice.

§746.403. When and where must these items be posted?

(a) (No change.)

(b) For a list of each child's food allergies that require an emergency plan:

(1) You must post the list during all hours of operation where you prepare food and in each room where the child may spend time;

(2) The posting must be in a place where employees may easily view the list;

(3) If a parent requests it, you must maintain the privacy of the child (for example, a clipboard hung on the wall with a cover sheet over the list); and

(4) You must make sure that all caregivers and employees that prepare and serve food are made aware of each child's food allergies.

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter C, Record Keeping

Division 1, Records of Children

TAC Section Number(s) §746.605

Final Action

201602215 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Amendment

X Adopted With Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The amendment is adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The amendment implements HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.605. What admission information must I obtain for each child?

You must obtain at least the following information before admitting a child to care:

(1) - (13) (No change.)

(14) The name and telephone number of the school that a school-age child attends, unless the operation is located at the child's school;

(15) Permission for a school-age child to ride a bus, walk to or from school or home, or to be released to the care of a sibling under 18 years old, if applicable; and

(16) A completed food allergy emergency plan for the child, if applicable.

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter C, Record Keeping

Division 4, Personnel Records

TAC Section Number(s) §746.901

Final Action

201602216 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Amendment

X Adopted Without Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The amendment is adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The amendment implements HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.901. What information must I maintain in my personnel records?

You must have the following records at the child-care center and available for review during hours of operation for each employee, caregiver, substitute, and volunteer as specified in this chapter:

(1) - (9) (No change.)

(10) A statement signed and dated by the employee verifying the date the employee attended training during orientation that includes an overview of your policy on the prevention, recognition, and reporting of child abuse and neglect outlined in §746.1303 of this title (relating to What must orientation for employees at my child-care center include?).

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter D, Personnel

Division 4, Professional Development

TAC Section Number(s) §§746.1303, 746.1305, 746.1307, 746.1309, 746.1311

Final Action

201602217 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Amendment

X Adopted With Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The amendments are adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The amendments implement HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.1303. What must orientation for employees at my child-care center include?

(a) Your orientation for employees must include at least the following:

(1) (No change.)

(2) An overview of your operational policies, including discipline and guidance practices and procedures for the release of children;

(3) An overview of your policy on the prevention, recognition, and reporting of child abuse and neglect, including:

(A) Factors indicating a child is at risk of abuse or neglect;

(B) Warning signs indicating a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect;

(C) Procedures for reporting child abuse or neglect; and

(D) Community organizations that have training programs available to child-care center staff members, children, and parents;

(4) An overview of the procedures to follow in handling emergencies, which includes sharing the emergency preparedness plan with all employees. Emergencies may include, but are not limited to, fire, explosion, tornado, toxic fumes, volatile persons, and severe injury or illness of a child or adult; and

(5) The location and use of fire extinguishers and first-aid equipment.

(b) For employees you hire on or after September 1, 2016, your orientation must also cover the following areas:

(1) Administering medication, if applicable, including compliance with §746.3803 of this title (relating to What authorization must I obtain before administering a medication to a child in my care?);

(2) Preventing and responding to emergencies due to food or an allergic reaction;

(3) Understanding building and physical premises safety, including identification and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electric hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic;

(4) Handling, storing, and disposing of hazardous materials including compliance with §746.3425 of this title (relating to Must caregivers wear gloves when handling blood or bodily fluids containing blood?); and

(5) Precautions in transporting children if your center transports a child whose chronological or developmental age is younger than nine years old.

§746.1305. What must be covered in pre-service training for caregivers?

(a) Pre-service training for caregivers must cover the following areas:

(1) - (6) (No change.)

(7) Preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases, including immunizations.

(b) If a caregiver provides care for children younger than 24 months of age, one hour of that caregiver's pre-service training must cover the following topics:

(1) Recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma;

(2) Understanding and using safe sleep practices and preventing sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS); and

(3) (No change.)

§746.1307. Are any caregivers exempt from the pre-service training?

Yes. A caregiver is exempt from the pre-service training requirements if the caregiver has:

(1) (No change.)

(2) Documentation of at least 24 clock hours of training in the areas specified in §746.1305 of this title (relating to What must be covered in pre-service training for caregivers?) at another regulated child-care center.

§746.1309. How many clock hours of annual training must be obtained by caregivers? (a) Each caregiver must obtain at least 24 clock hours of training each year relevant to the age of the children for whom the caregiver provides care.

(b) The 24 clock hours of annual training are exclusive of any requirements for orientation, pre-service training, CPR and first aid training, transportation safety training, and high school child-care work-study classes.

(c) At least six clock hours of the annual training hours must be in one or more of the following topics:

(1) Child growth and development;

(2) Guidance and discipline;

(3) Age-appropriate curriculum; and

(4) Teacher-child interaction.

(d) At least one clock hour of the annual training hours must focus on prevention, recognition, and reporting of child abuse and neglect, including:

(1) Factors indicating a child is at risk for abuse or neglect;

(2) Warning signs indicating a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect;

(3) Procedures for reporting child abuse or neglect; and

(4) Community organizations that have training programs available to child-care center staff members, children, and parents.

(e) If a caregiver provides care for children younger than 24 months of age, one clock hour of the annual training hours must cover the following topics: (1) Recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma;

(2) Understanding and using safe sleep practices and preventing sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS); and

(3) Understanding early childhood brain development.

(f) While there are no clock hour requirements for the topics in this subsection, the annual training hours must also include training on the following topics:

(1) Emergency preparedness;

(2) Preventing the spread of communicable diseases, including immunizations;

(3) Administering medication, if applicable, including compliance with §746.3803 of this title (relating to What authorization must I obtain before administering a medication to a child in my care?);

(4) Preventing and controlling and responding to emergencies due to food or an allergic reaction;

(5) Understanding building and physical premises safety, including identification and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electric hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; and

(6) Handling, storing, and disposing of hazardous materials including compliance with §746.3425 of this title (relating to Must caregivers wear gloves when handling blood or bodily fluids containing blood?).

(g) The remaining annual training hours must be in one or more of the following topics:

(1) Care of children with special needs;

(2) Child health (for example, nutrition and activity);

(3) Safety;

(4) Risk management;

(5) Identification and care of ill children;

(6) Cultural diversity for children and families;

(7) Professional development (for example, effective communication with families and time and stress management);

(8) Topics relevant to the particular age group the caregiver is assigned (for example, caregivers assigned to an infant or toddler group should receive training on biting and toilet training);

(9) Planning developmentally appropriate learning activities;

(10) Observation and assessment;

(11) Attachment and responsive care giving; and

(12) Minimum standards and how they apply to the caregiver.

(h) No more than 80% of the annual training hours may be obtained through self-instructional training. No more than three hours of the self-instructional training may come from a person reading written materials or watching a video on their own.

§746.1311. How many clock hours of training must my child-care center director obtain each year?

(a) The child-care center director must obtain at least 30 clock hours of training each year relevant to the age of the children for whom the child-care center provides care.

(b) The 30 clock hours of annual training are exclusive of any requirements for orientation, pre-service training, CPR and first aid training, and transportation safety training.

(c) At least six clock hours of the annual training hours must be in one or more of the following topics:

(1) Child growth and development;

(2) Guidance and discipline;

(3) Age-appropriate curriculum;

(4) Teacher-child interaction; and

(5) Serving children with special care needs.

(d) At least one clock hour of the annual training hours must focus on prevention, recognition, and reporting of child abuse and neglect, including:

(1) Factors indicating a child is at risk for abuse or neglect;

(2) Warning signs indicating a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect;

(3) Procedures for reporting child abuse or neglect; and

(4) Community organizations that have training programs available to child-care center staff members, children, and parents.

(e) If the center provides care for children younger than 24 months of age, one hour of the annual training hours must cover the following topics:

(1) Recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma;

(2) Understanding and using safe sleep practices and preventing sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS); and

(3) Understanding early childhood brain development.

(f) While there are no clock hour requirements for the topics in this subsection, the annual training hours must also include training on the following topics:

(1) Emergency preparedness;

(2) Preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases, including immunizations;

(3) Administering medication, if applicable, including compliance with §746.3803 of this title (relating to What authorization must I obtain before administering a medication to a child in my care?);

(4) Preventing and responding to emergencies due to food or an allergic reaction;

(5) Understanding building and physical premises safety, including identification and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electric hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; and

(6) Handling, storing, and disposing of hazardous materials including compliance with §746.3425 of this title (relating to Must caregivers wear gloves when handling blood or bodily fluids containing blood?).

(g) A director with:

(1) Five or fewer years of experience as a designated director of a child-care center must complete at least six clock hours of the annual training hours in management techniques, leadership, or staff supervision; or

(2) More than five years of experience as a designated director of a child-care center must complete at least three clock hours of the annual training hours in management techniques, leadership, or staff supervision.

(h) The remainder of the 30 clock hours of annual training must be selected from the training topics specified in §746.1309(g) of this title (relating to How many clock hours of annual training must be obtained by caregivers?).

(i) The director may obtain clock hours or CEUs from the same sources as caregivers.

(j) Training hours may not be earned for presenting training to others.

(k) No more than 80% of the annual training hours may be obtained through self-instructional training. No more than three hours of the self-instructional training may come from a person reading written materials or watching a video on their own.

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter N, Field Trips

TAC Section Number(s) §746.3001

Final Action

201602218 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Amendment

X Adopted With Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The amendment is adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The amendment implements HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.3001. May I take children away from my child-care center for field trips?

Yes. You must ensure the safety of all children on field trips or excursions and during any transportation provided by the child-care center. Anytime you take a child on a field trip, you must comply with each of the following requirements:

(1) - (4) (No change.)

(5) Caregivers must have a copy of a child's food allergy emergency plan and allergy medications, if applicable;

(6) Each child must wear a shirt, nametag, or other identification listing the name of the child-care center and the child-care center's telephone number;

(7) Each caregiver must be easily identifiable by all children on the field trip by wearing a hat, child-care center tee-shirt, brightly-colored clothes, or other easily spotted identification;

(8) Each caregiver supervising a field trip must have transportation available, a communication device such as a cellular phone or two-way radio available, or an alternate plan for transportation at the field-trip location in case of emergency; and

(9) Caregivers with training in CPR and first aid with rescue breathing and choking must be present on the field trip.

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter Q, Nutrition and Food Service

TAC Section Number(s) §746.3301

Final Action

201602219 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Amendment

X Adopted Without Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The amendment is adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The amendment implements HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.3301. What are the basic requirements for snack and mealtimes?

(a) You must serve all children ready for table food regular meals and morning and afternoon snacks as specified in this subchapter.

(b) If breakfast is served, a morning snack is not required.

(c) A child must not go more than three hours without a meal or snack being offered, unless the child is sleeping.

(d) If your child-care center is participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture, you may elect to meet those requirements rather than those specified in this section.

(e) You must ensure a supply of drinking water is always available to each child and is served at every snack, mealtime, and after active play in a safe and sanitary manner.

(f) You must not serve beverages with added sugars, such as carbonated beverages, fruit punch, or sweetened milk except for a special occasion such as a holiday or birthday celebration.

(g) You must not use food as a reward.

(h) You must not serve a child a food identified on the child's food allergy emergency plan as specified in §746.3817 of this title (relating to What is a food allergy emergency plan?).

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter R, Health Practices

Division 1, Environmental Health

TAC Section Number(s) §746.3407, §746.3425

Final Action

201602220 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Amendment

X Adopted With Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The amendments are adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The amendment implements HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.3407. What steps must I take to ensure a healthy environment for children at my child-care center?

You must clean, repair, and maintain the building, grounds, and equipment to protect the health of the children. This includes, but is not limited to:

(1) - (10) (No change.)

(11) Sanitizing table tops, furniture, and other similar equipment used by children when soiled or contaminated with matter such as food, body secretions, or excrement;

(12) Clearly marking cleaning supplies and other toxic materials and keeping them separate from food and inaccessible to children; and

(13) Using, storing, and disposing of hazardous materials as recommended by the manufacturer.

§746.3425. Must caregivers wear gloves when handling blood or bodily fluids containing blood?

Yes. Caregivers must follow universal precautions outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) when handling blood, vomit, or other bodily fluids that may contain blood including:

(1) Using disposable, nonporous gloves;

(2) Placing gloves contaminated with blood in a tied, sealed, or otherwise closed plastic bag and discarding them immediately;

(3) Discarding all other gloves immediately after one use; and

(4) Washing hands after using and disposing of the gloves.

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter R, Health Practices

Division 2, Diaper Changing

TAC Section Number(s) §746.3505

Final Action

201602221 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Amendment

X Adopted Without Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The amendment is adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The amendment implements HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.3505. What must I do to prevent the spread of germs when diapering children?

(a) You must wash your hands as specified in §746.3419 of this title (relating to How must children and employees wash their hands?).

(b) You must wash the infant's hands or see that the child's hands are washed after each diaper change as specified in §746.3421 of this title (relating to How must I wash an infant's hands?).

(c) - (f) (No change.)

(g) You must place soiled clothing in a sealed plastic bag to be sent home with the child.

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter S, Safety Practices

Division 2, Medications and Medical Assistance

TAC Section Number(s) §746.3817, §746.3819

Final Action

201602222 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X New

X Adopted With Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The new sections are adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The new sections implement HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.3817. What is a food allergy emergency plan?

A food allergy emergency plan is an individualized plan prepared by the child's health care professional that includes:

1. a list of each food the child is allergic to;
2. possible symptoms if exposed to a food on the list; and
3. the steps to take if the child has an allergic reaction.

§746.3819. When must I have a food allergy emergency plan for a child?

You must have a food allergy emergency plan for each child with a known food allergy that has been diagnosed by a health-care professional. The child's heath care professional and parent must sign and date the plan. You must keep a copy of the plan in the child's file.

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter W, Fire Safety and Emergency Practices

Division 2, Emergency Evacuation and Relocation

TAC Section Number(s) §§746.5201, 746.5202, 746.5205, 746.5207

Final Action

201602223 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Amendment

X Adopted With Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The amendments are adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The amendments implement HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.5201. What is an emergency preparedness plan?

An emergency preparedness plan is designed to ensure the safety of children during an emergency by addressing staff responsibility and facility readiness with respect to emergency evacuation, relocation, and sheltering/lock-down. The plan addresses the types of responses to emergencies most likely to occur in your area, including:

(1) An evacuation of the children and caregivers to a designated safe area in an emergency such as a fire or gas leak;

(2) A relocation of the children and caregivers to a designated, alternate shelter in an emergency such as a flood, a hurricane, medical emergency, or communicable disease outbreak; and

(3) The sheltering and lock-down of children and caregivers within the center to temporarily protect them from situations such as a tornado, volatile person on the premises, or an endangering person in the area.

§746.5202. What must my emergency preparedness plan include?

Your emergency preparedness plan must include written procedures for:

(1) Evacuation, relocation, and sheltering/lock-down of children including:

(A) The first responsibility of staff in an emergency evacuation or relocation is to move the children to a designated safe area or alternate shelter known to all employees, caregivers, parents, and volunteers;

(B) How children will be evacuated or relocated to the designated safe area or alternate shelter, including specific procedures for evacuating and relocating children who are under 24 months of age, who have limited mobility, or who otherwise may need assistance in an emergency, such as children who have mental, visual, or hearing impairments;

(C) The staff responsibility in a sheltering/lock-down emergency for the orderly movement of children to a designated location within the center where children should gather;

(D) An emergency evacuation and relocation diagram as outlined in §746.5207 of this title (relating to Must I have an emergency evacuation and relocation diagram?);

(E) Name and address of the alternate shelter away from the center you will use as needed; and

(F) How children in attendance at the time of the emergency will be accounted for at the designated safe area or alternate shelter.

(2) Communication, including:

(A) The emergency telephone number that is on file with us; and

(B) (No change.)

(3) How your staff will evacuate and relocate with the essential documentation including:

(A) - (B) (No change.)

(C) The child tracking system information for children in care;

(4) How your staff will continue to care for the children until each child has been released; and

(5) How you will reunify the children with their parents as the evacuation, relocation, or sheltering/lock-down is lifted.

§746.5205. Must I practice my emergency preparedness plan?

Yes, the following components of your center's emergency preparedness plan must be practiced as specified below:

(1) (No change.)

(2) You must practice a sheltering drill for severe weather at least four times in a calendar year;

(3) You must practice a lock-down drill for a volatile or endangering person on the premises or in the area at least four times in a calendar year; and

(4) You must document these drills, including the date of the drill, time of the drill, and length of the time for the evacuation, sheltering, or lock-down to take place.

§746.5207. Must I have an emergency evacuation and relocation diagram?

(a) (No change.)

(b) You must post an emergency evacuation and relocation diagram in each room the children use. You must post the diagram near the entrance and/or exit of the room and where children and employees may easily view the diagram.

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .

Title 40, Social Services & Assistance, Part 19, Dept. of Family and Protective Services

Chapter 746, Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

Subchapter W, Fire Safety and Emergency Practices

Division 2, Emergency Evacuation and Relocation

TAC Section Number(s) §746.5203

Final Action

201602224 TRD Docket Number

For Proposed Action

5/20/16 Proposed Action

Publication Date

X Repeal

X Adopted Without Changes

Effective Date:

X Other (Specify)

December 1, 2016

The repeal is adopted under Human Resources Code (HRC) §40.0505 and Government Code §531.0055, which provide that the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation and provision of services by the health and human services agencies, including the Department of Family and Protective Services; and HRC §40.021, which provides that the Family and Protective Services Council shall study and make recommendations to the Executive Commissioner and the Commissioner regarding rules governing the delivery of services to persons who are served or regulated by the department.

The repeal implements HRC §§42.042 and 42.0421 and portions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which is codified in 42 USC §9857 et seq.

§746.5203. With whom must I share this plan?

This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on .