



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Peter Lyskowski  
Acting Director



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor

December 21, 2015

Dear Child Care Provider:

During the last legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly passed Senate Bill 341. This bill impacts licensed child care providers regarding safe sleep for children less than one (1) year of age. On August 28, 2015 this bill became law and can be found in Section 210.223, RSMo. Highlights of the bill include:

- Requires child care facilities licensed to care for children under 12 months of age to implement and maintain a written safe sleep policy that meets the most recent safe sleep recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP);
- Requires written instructions from a licensed health care provider when an infant requires alternative sleep positions or special sleeping arrangements;
- Requires successful completion of department-approved safe sleep training on the most recent AAP recommendations every three (3) years;
- Requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to promulgate rules to meet the statutory requirements.

On November 10, 2015, the Department filed emergency amendments and proposed amendments to its regulations related to safe sleep. **The emergency amendments went into effect on November 20, 2015.** The emergency amendments are posted on the Section for Child Care Regulation's (SCCR) Internet page, under *Laws, Regulations and Guidelines*. Go to <http://www.health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/lawsregs.php> to view the emergency amendments and see the new rule language in bold. Here you will also find a link to the proposed amendments: <http://www.health.mo.gov/about/proposedrules/index.php>.

Child care providers licensed on or before November 20, 2015 have three (3) months from the effective date of emergency rule to complete the department-approved safe sleep training. SCCR is currently reviewing all currently approved safe sleep training to ensure each training meets the recommendations of the AAP, as required by statute. SCCR will post the final approved trainings on its website and notify providers of the posting via our listserv. We encourage providers to check our website often at <http://www.health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/index.php>.

The Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) has developed safe sleep FAQ's, as well as a **sample** safe sleep policy for your reference and convenience. Your facility is now required to develop, implement and maintain a safe sleep policy which you must provide to parents, who have children less than one (1) year of age, at the time of enrollment. The *Child Care Enrollment* form has been revised to include parental acknowledgement stating that they have been notified, have been informed and have received a copy of the facility's safe sleep policy, when enrolling a child less than one (1) year of age. The *Infant and Toddler Feeding and Care* form has been revised to clarify the use of pacifiers and the

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instructions for sleeping. Both revised forms may be found on SCCR's website at <http://www.health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/forms.php>.

We hope you find this information helpful. If you need assistance or have questions about the new safe sleep requirements, please contact your child care facility specialist.

Sincerely,

Sue Porting, Section Administrator  
Section for Child Care Regulation

Enclosure