



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Licensed Child Care Safe Sleep Standards and Training Requirements

September 2016

Minnesota law requires licensed child care providers to comply with infant-specific safe sleep standards and training requirements. These standards and training requirements are considered critical because unsafe sleep environments have been associated with a significant number of unexpected infant deaths in Minnesota, including in licensed child care.

Key safe sleep standards and training requirements for licensed child care:

- Require a physician's directive for anything other than a back sleeping position by an infant.
- Allow an infant who independently rolls over to remain on stomach with signed parent statement.
- Clarify that nothing is allowed in the crib with the infant except a pacifier.
- Clarify that the definition of "infant" as being up to the child's first birthday.
- Outline allowable use of swaddling.
- Encourage in-person checks on sleeping infants at specific intervals and encourages the use of audio or video monitoring of sleeping infants.
- Require providers to perform monthly safety inspections of every crib.
- Require providers to check all their cribs' brand names and model numbers against the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site for unsafe cribs.
- Require staff persons, caregivers, and volunteers that care for infants to receive at least one-half hour training on reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) at least once a year.
- Require that, if an infant falls asleep before being placed in a crib, the license holder must move the infant to a crib as soon as practicable, and must keep the infant within sight of the license holder until the infant is placed in a crib.
- Require that, when an infant falls asleep while being held, the license holder must consider the supervision needs of other children in care when determining how long to hold the infant before placing the infant in a crib to sleep.
- Require family child care providers to take "Supervising for Safety training" at orientation.

Safe sleep practices are key to infants' safety in licensed child care

Unsafe sleep environments are associated with nearly all unexpected deaths in Minnesota, including infant deaths in licensed child care. Since 2002, over 70% of infant deaths in licensed child care occurred when the infant was in an unsafe sleep arrangement.

Since the 2013 implementation of these new standards and training requirements targeting safe sleep practices, deaths in licensed child care have decreased significantly. The Division attributes this decrease to enhanced infant safe sleep standards and training requirements, heightened awareness of safety issues, and publicity surrounding noncompliance resulting in infant deaths.

Infant Deaths in Licensed Child Care: 2008-Present

