

## Updates to Chapter 16 Health and Sanitation Article XVII: Child Care Centers

### **Why is this ordinance being updated?**

This ordinance is being updated to align with *Texas Health and Human Services Commission Child Care Regulations*, known as the *Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers (Minimum Standards)*. These revisions will allow for the adoption of current and future *Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers*.

### **Who will this ordinance apply to?**

This ordinance will only apply to commercial child-care establishments that have an annual health permit with the City of Fort Worth. This does not apply to Licensed Child Care Homes, Registered Child Care Homes, or Listed Family Homes. These text amendments will not significantly change business operations.

### **What edits will be made to this ordinance?**

There are three (3) types of edits that will be made to this ordinance: Updates, Inclusions, and Clarifications.

#### 1. Updates:

- a. The Purpose section will include the adoption of Minimum Standards regulations.
- b. The permitted facility name will be changed from “day care center” to “child-care center” to align with state regulations.
- c. The regulatory authority will be changed from the “Public Health Department” to the “Environmental Services Department.”
- d. The licensing form name will be changed from “Certificate of Inspection” to “Child-Care Establishment Permit.”

#### 2. Inclusions:

- a. The streamlined process for adopting future revisions from the Minimum Standards will be incorporated.
- b. There will be a regulation to use the more restrictive ordinance/standard when there are differences between the City ordinance and the Minimum Standards.
- c. Definitions for “Child-Care Establishment Permit” and “Easily Cleanable” will be added.

#### 3. Clarifications:

- a. The redundant standards for electrical outlet specifications and toilet/plumbing code will be simplified, as specified in the Minimum Standards.

### **When will this ordinance go into effect?**

This ordinance will go into effect on June 1, 2025.

**For more information regarding the Chapter 16 Health and Sanitation ordinance updates, contact:**

Environmental Services Department  
Consumer Health Division  
(817) 392-7255  
ConsumerHealth@fortworthtexas.gov

For the *Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers*, visit: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/protective-services/ccl/min-standards/chapter-746-centers.pdf>

For the *Fort Worth, TX. Code of Ordinances* referenced, visit: [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/ftworth/latest/ftworth\\_tx/0-0-0-19705#JD\\_Ch.16Art.XVII](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/ftworth/latest/ftworth_tx/0-0-0-19705#JD_Ch.16Art.XVII)