

Tips To Help Fight Child Care Fraud



As a DSS child care program participant:

- Report all changes within 10 days of the date of change.
- Work with your local DSS office to ensure that all child care verification requirements are met.
- Provide complete and accurate information to your DSS worker.
- Sign your child in/out daily on the child care provider's attendance record.
- **Never** sign blank child care attendance forms.

As a DSS child care provider:

- Maintain records of all child care attendance sheets for 5 years after the child leaves care.
- Accurately complete all child care attendance sheets and child care invoices.
- Communicate any changes that impact compliance to your Child Care Provider Relations Unit (CCPRU) immediately.

**You can help prevent
Child Care Fraud!**

**"Integrity is doing the right thing,
even if nobody is watching."
- Unknown Author**

What Can You Do?

Remember, people that are committing Child Care Fraud are stealing **your** tax dollars. To report suspected Child Care Fraud, please contact the DSS Fraud Unit at (518) 873-3636 or:

Mary Stanley
Sr. Social Services Worker / Day Care Administrator
Essex County Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 217
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Telephone: (518) 873-3431
Fax: (518) 873-3467

All reports made will remain anonymous.



CHILD CARE TASK FORCE

Essex County District Attorney's Office
Essex County Department of Social Services

- Welfare Fraud
- Information Technology
- Child Care

Adirondack Community Action Programs

New York State Police

Moriah Police Department

Ticonderoga Police Department

Lake Placid Police Department

Saranac Lake Police Department

Essex County Sheriff's Office

Essex County Office of Community Resources



Essex County Department of

SOCIAL SERVICES

PREVENTING CHILD CARE FRAUD

What you need to know...



PREVENTING CHILD CARE FRAUD WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...



Essex County Child Care Fraud Prevention

The goal of the Department of Social Services is to promote public awareness of child care fraud prevention. The Department of Social Services understands the need to ensure program integrity and protect tax dollars while ensuring access to child care services for eligible families. It is important to share with the public that persons receiving child care benefits or providing child care services may be subject to case reviews and/or audits, welfare investigations, or prosecution for child care fraud.

What is Fraud?

Fraud is providing misrepresentation of information that you know is not true so you can gain benefits or payments you are not eligible to receive. Fraud is a punishable crime.

As a DSS child care program participant you are committing fraud if you:

- Fail or refuse to provide accurate and complete eligibility information.
- Share inaccurate or false documents to receive benefits.
- Hide information about eligibility.

- Falsify sign-in/out sheets for child care providers, to include signing for services not provided.
- Falsify that your child(ren) receive care from a provider when services are not provided and then split the subsidy payment with the provider.

As a DSS child care provider you are committing fraud if you:

- Change or provide falsifying information and or documentation during the child care provider application process.
- Hide or share inaccurate information about actual services provided.
- Falsify child care attendance records.
- Falsify child care invoices.
- Falsify that child care services are being provided and then split the subsidy payment with the participant(s).
- Lack completeness when providing contract or registration agreement information.
- Do not report changes as required by your contract or registration agreement.
- Falsify records where you as the parent and provider receive state subsidy for providing child care services to your own children.



Criminal Sanctions for NYS

Penal Law Section 158.05 - Welfare Fraud
5th degree - Class A Misdemeanor
Up to 1 year in jail

Penal Law Section 158.10 - Welfare Fraud
4th degree - when benefits received exceed \$1,000 - Class E Felony
1 1/3 - 4 years in prison

Penal Law Section 158.15 - Welfare Fraud
3rd degree - when benefits received exceed \$3,000 - Class D Felony
2 1/3 - 7 years in prison

Penal Law Section 158.20 - Welfare Fraud
2nd degree - when benefits received exceed \$50,000 - Class C Felony
5 - 15 years in prison

Penal Law Section 175.35 - Offering a False Instrument for Filing - 1st degree - Class E Felony
1 1/3 - 4 years in prison

Why Fight Child Care Fraud?

The primary purpose of the Child Care Assistance Program is to enable families to obtain and retain employment or the skills necessary to obtain employment, with the ultimate goal being to break the cycle of poverty. Child care is considered an ongoing benefit to the family's efforts towards self-sufficiency.

Preventing fraud preserves and protects the integrity of Essex County's Child Care Assistance Program so that tax dollars are available for families in need.