



Reject HB 744 – “Light Family Day Homes”

Oppose Policy that Compromises the Safety of Children in Child Care



In Brief

HB 744 would exempt family day home providers caring for 5 – 8 children from state licensure. It also exempts these providers from the minimum short list of safety requirements that apply to other license-exempt child care settings.

The new “Light Family Day Home” providers would be required to have CPR certification, follow safe sleep practices, and self-administer a health & safety checklist. However, these providers would be exempt from ANY other requirements that apply under the license-exempt statute (a small subset of licensing requirements).

For example, they would not be required to:

- Maintain daily attendance records documenting the arrival and departure of children
- Have an emergency preparedness plan in place
- Comply with any laws governing the transportation of children
- File with VDOE annually that they are operating
- Report all serious injuries and deaths
- Post in a visible location that they are exempt from licensure and have no oversight by VDOE

VDOE would not be required to conduct inspections.

Child Safety Matters!

A license exemption for “Light Family Day Homes” serving 5 – 8 children would be a giant step backward in the safety of Virginia’s children.

The top 2 parent concerns about child care:

- The safety of their children
- The cost of care

More than 50 infants and toddlers in Virginia have died in unlicensed child care over the past 20 years. While Virginia is facing a child care shortage, authorizing more unlicensed care would place more children at risk—not increase safety or provide peace of mind for parents. For more information about some of the infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children who have died in child care, see the next page.



Bodie- 10 Weeks

Chesapeake. 10-week old Bodie died in March 2023. He was placed in a swing at lunch-time. When next checked at 3:00, he wasn't breathing.



Dylan- 7 Weeks

Norfolk. 7-week-old Dylan died in May 2010 in a license-exempt church child care program. An investigation found poor supervision, unsafe sleep practices, and lack of training.



Briele- 16 Months

Langley Air Force Housing Complex. 16-month-old Briele died in August 2014 when she strangled in a car seat in an upstairs bedroom while the provider went to the vet. An 8-year-old was left in charge, but was downstairs.



Joseph- 13 Months

Midlothian. 13-month-old Joseph died in October 2014 as a result of smoke inhalation at a fire in an unlicensed home. No emergency plan. No list of kids in care. The provider forgot him behind.



Cami- 3 Months

Harrisonburg. 3-month old Cami died in May 2012 in an unlicensed home while napping on an adult bed. An investigation found the provider had 5 alias' used to evade a background check and was on felony probation.



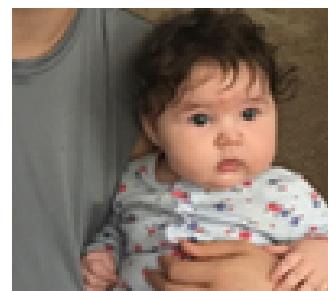
Noah- 16 Months

Chesterfield. 16-month-old Noah died in October 2006 in an unlicensed home. His provider had placed a dog crate over the crib so he wouldn't get out after his nap. He strangled.



Cole- 4 Years

Orange County. 4-year-old Cole died in May 2017 from a self-inflicted gun shot in an unlicensed home. He was placed for a nap in the master bedroom where a loaded handgun was within reach.



Olivia- 3.5 Months

Arlington. 3 1/2 month-old Olivia died in November 2016 in an unlicensed home when she stopped breathing (napping in a snowsuit) and the provider administered CPR on her back breaking her ribs.