



Georgia Department of Human Services

Aging Services | Child Support Services | Family & Children Services

Provider Licensure Packet

The Residential Child Care Licensing Unit (RCC) of the Office of Inspector General is responsible for licensing Child Caring Institutions, Child Placing Agencies, Children Transition Care Centers, Maternity Homes, Outdoor Child Caring Programs, and Runway Homeless Youth Program under Georgia State Law. O.C.G.A. Secs.49-5 requires agencies to obtain a Georgia State license prior to providing services to children. To begin the application process, you must first submit an application for license to operate a child welfare agency with all the required documents. The application must be signed and dated by the administrator or the Executive Officer of the governing body. RCC will review your application upon receipt to determine if all documents were included. If all essential documents were included, your application will be considered complete and the initial administrative review process will begin. Failure to submit a completed application may result in your application being returned. Submit the application Packet to:

Residential Child Care Licensing
Application Unit
2 Peachtree St., NW Suite 30-246
Atlanta, GA 30303

Steps to Licensure as a Child Caring Institution

- Plan to attend a Licensure Orientation Meeting. For information: <http://www.gahsc.org/nm/npo/npoindex.html>
- Application and the Rules and Regulations can be found at: <http://dhs.georgia.gov/residential-child-care-licensing>
- Familiarize yourself with the Rules and Regulations. Make sure you fully understand all the Rules and Regulations you are responsible for meeting as a licensed Child Caring Institution.
- Contact the Agency from whom you plan to receive referrals (children). State level DFCS (Department of Family and Children Services) 404-657-3572 and DJJ (Department of Juvenile Justice) 404-508-6546 are two of the major sources of referral. **A license to operate does not ensure that your facility will be approved as a resource by the agency to which you apply to get your referrals from.** You should communicate with your intended referral source from the onset to help you develop a program around the needs of the referral source.
- Locate the physical plant that you will be utilizing as a Child Caring Institution and contact the Office of Planning and Zoning (in that county) as well as the Local Fire Department to determine if the home is properly zoned to operate as a Child Caring Institution and to determine if any repairs or additions will be needed to meet the fire code for operation as a Child Caring Institution.
- Prepare your facility for compliance with the Rules and Regulations and submit the application with the following information to RCC:
 - Floor plans, site plans and a description of the services you plan to provide
 - Letters of Approval from local and state agencies such as fire (Certificate of Occupancy), zoning and local health departments, if applicable
 - A completed operation and site plan checklist which is included in the application packet
 - Conduct a self-study and submit a Statement of Readiness Form for opening and any other various approval forms
- Once your Application Packet including Policies and Procedures has been reviewed and approved as being complete, you will be assigned an RCC Surveyor.
- The RCC Surveyor will contact you and schedule the initial inspection.
- Once the physical plant has been approved (site visit), you will be issued a Temporary License to operate.
- Once licensed, you can follow the procedures of your intended referral agency to seek their approval.