

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE LICENSING (RCC)
FACT SHEET: RUNAWAY YOUTH SAFETY ACT

OVERVIEW

The Runaway Youth Safety Act, passed by the Georgia General Assembly in 2011 as Senate Bill 94, creates a limited exception to criminal liability for service providers that serve children under the age of 18 who have run away and/or are homeless. All service providers must notify a child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child's location and general state of well-being as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after the child's acceptance of services. If a provider suspects child abuse or neglect, the provider must submit an abuse report to the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). Should a child not reveal the parent, guardian, or legal custodian or if the aforementioned responsible parties cannot be reached, providers must contact DFCS within 72 hours of the child's acceptance of services. A copy of the bill, as passed, can be accessed via the web at: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/>

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations that are currently licensed by RCC or have a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service are eligible to apply for registration.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- Application for registration materials is posted on the website.
- Upon receipt of an application and the \$25 annual registration fee, RCC staff will review the application and ensure all required documentation is complete.
- Required documentation will include applicable approvals from governing authorities, proof of liability insurance, and program policies and procedures as outlined in application package.
- Once all documentation is reviewed and categorized as sufficient, an RCC staff member will visit the physical address submitted in the application to ensure that the service site location is as stated.
- After the visit is complete, a Certificate of Registration valid for one (1) year will be granted to the service provider.
- The application process will not recur, unless a Certificate of Registration is revoked, however the \$25 annual registration fee must be paid each year in order to renew the Certificate of Registration.

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

Staff members who interact with children are required to:

- Undergo a criminal background check in accordance to Article 5 of Title 49; and
- Receive training on emergency evacuation, service protocols, and mandatory child abuse reporting.

Registered providers must also employ at least one (1) State of Georgia licensed professional counselor, social worker, marriage/family therapist, nurse, physician, or psychologist.