

# DCF Credentialing Chronicle

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### DCF CPS HOTLINE ALERT!

Avoid returned CPS Request Forms by following these tips:

1. Fill in all fields completely. Indicate n/a if not applicable.
2. Write legibly.
3. Sign and date the Request Form.



## CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAWS IN CONNECTICUT



**LAW:** Infants must remain rear-facing until they are a minimum of both 20 pounds and one year old.

Further recommended: Babies should be kept rear-facing until they are 2 years old or meet the maximum height or weight limit for their car seat when it is rear-facing.

**LAW:** Toddlers must be in a car seat.

Further recommended: Children should remain in a car seat until they reach the weight or height limit of their car seat (usually 40 pounds or more). Additionally, don't use a car seat that has been in a crash or has expired.

**LAW:** Children should ride in a car seat or booster seat until they reach 7 years old AND 60 pounds (they must meet both requirements). Children who ride in a booster seat must use a lap and shoulder belt.

Further recommended: Children should continue to ride in a booster seat until the seat belt fits properly (fitting on their collar bone and hip bones, not on their neck and stomach).

**LAW:** Children, tweens and teens must be in a seat belt wherever they ride in the vehicle.

Further recommended: Children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old. All people and objects should be properly restrained wherever they are in the vehicle.

**"NEVER LEAVE YOUR CHILD ALONE"** It is illegal in Connecticut to leave children 12 years and younger alone and unattended in a vehicle.

**Violators of the Connecticut car seat law must pay a fine and attend a 2-hour educational car seat class at the Department of Motor Vehicles.**

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## Never Leave Your Child Alone

### Checklist for Parents and Caregivers

- ☉ Teach children to never play in, on or around vehicles.
- ☉ Watch children closely around vehicles, particularly when loading and unloading. Check to ensure that all children leave the vehicle when you reach your destination. Don't overlook sleeping infants.
- ☉ Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the window slightly open.
- ☉ Be especially careful if you're dropping off infants or children at a day care provider if that's not part of your normal routine.
- ☉ Always lock a vehicle's doors and trunk, especially at home. Keep keys and remote entry devices out of children's reach.
- ☉ Place something you'll need at your next stop – for example, a purse, lunch, gym bag or briefcase – on the floor of the back seat where the child is sitting. This simple act could prevent you from forgetting your child.

For more information, please contact Safe Kids Connecticut at 860-545-9988 or visit [www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org)



## Credentialed Provider Meeting

Are you a currently approved DCF Provider?

Attend the quarterly Community Program Review Meetings for program updates and valuable information. Meetings are held at the **Albert J. Solnit Center, South Campus** (Riverview Hospital), Silvermine Training Center 915 River Road, Middletown CT 06457.

## “The Academy”

The Department of Children and Families is pleased to offer classes and trainings as a means of supporting the work of its provider partners in our collaborative efforts to protect children, improve child and family well-being, and support and preserve families.

Courses are offered **free-of-charge** to families and contracted providers and range from half-day, to full-day to multiple day offerings. All courses can be specially designed to meet an Agency's specific needs. Although most courses have a direct relationship to the children and/or families who are served within the department's service system, the types of trainings vary markedly. The Academy is currently focusing on four tracks: family-centered practice; trauma and the effects of trauma; child and adolescent development; and foster care.

For more information visit: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=4181&q=459492>

To view their online course catalog:

<http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=3984&Q=474456>