

family day care providers; altering certain inspection requirements for family day care homes and child care centers; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to the registration and licensing requirements of family day care homes and child care centers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 5-551 and 5-578

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Family Law**

5-551.

(a) The Department shall adopt rules and regulations that relate to the registration of family day care homes.

(b) So far as practicable, the rules and regulations shall be uniform with the rules and regulations adopted by other State agencies as those rules and regulations relate to other types of day care.

(c) At a minimum, the rules and regulations shall provide for:

(1) minimum standards of environmental health and safety, including provisions for:

- (i) adequate and safe physical surroundings;
- (ii) the physical and mental health of day care providers; and
- (iii) investigation of any criminal record of a day care provider;

(2) a thorough evaluation of each prospective family day care home and day care provider, to be completed before the Department accepts an initial registration;

(3) [self-certification by each registered day care provider once every 2 years that all requirements for a family day care home are being met] AN INITIAL FAMILY DAY CARE REGISTRATION THAT EXPIRES 2 YEARS AFTER ITS EFFECTIVE DATE;

(4) A CONTINUING FAMILY DAY CARE REGISTRATION THAT:

(I) UPON APPLICATION BY THE DAY CARE PROVIDER THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE DEPARTMENT, IS ISSUED TO THE PROVIDER BEFORE THE END OF THE INITIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD; AND