



# WASHOE COUNTY

*"Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service"*

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Child Care Services

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August 29, 2005

Dear Child Care Applicant:

To keep up with technological progress and life safety challenges, both fire and building codes change and are updated every three years. As part of this ongoing cycle, the cities of Reno and Sparks, and the unincorporated areas of Washoe County, recently adopted the 2003 International Building Code and the 2003 International Fire Code.

As in any new code, there are changes. This letter is to inform and advise you that, effective immediately, the following change will be enforced by all local fire and building departments.

Prior to these codes being adopted, a licensed home childcare provider could care for up to six children in their personal residence. Under the 2003 International Codes, the licensed home childcare provider will be limited to being licensed for five children.

The reason for this is the definition of "daycare" has been changed to state that when any building or structure, or portion thereof, is used for education, supervision, or personal care services for more than five children, the building must then be classified as an "E" (educational), "I" (institutional), or "A" (assembly) occupancy. Any of these reclassifications would result in your having to make major modifications to your home. Under the old code, you were permitted to care for six children without the reclassification of your home.

In the cities of Reno and Sparks, and in Washoe County, the fire and building departments will enforce this regulation with all new home childcare applicants. This regulation will also be enforced in existing home childcare facilities which reapply for a license after having been inactive for a period of six months or longer.

Please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department having jurisdiction if you have any questions regarding this new code.

Sincerely,

Alice LeDesma, Supervisor  
Child Care Services