

Understanding Child Care Licensing Reports



Reviewing a child care program's Licensing Reports can be an important step in choosing a program you are comfortable and confident in sending your child. These reports provide you with information about prior inspections, any violations or proven complaints, and how they were addressed. When reviewing these reports, you'll find several different types listed. A definition of each report type is provided here.

Compliance Monitoring: Licensing does at least two unannounced compliance monitoring inspections each year at licensed child care facilities. This is a routine inspection to look at the physical space (indoors and outdoors) and view children and staff files for compliance.

Compliance Verification: When a child care provider submits documentation to DHSS to come into compliance, it is shown on their licensing report as a Compliance Verification.

Close Supervision: If a facility is placed on close supervision, extra inspections will be done for the length of time the facility is placed on close supervision. Close supervision typically ranges anywhere from 3 months to one year.

Reinspection: Licensing conducts re-inspections to view corrections, especially if the prior inspection found violations that are considered serious (staff/child ratio, exceeding group size, meal deficiencies, inappropriate discipline, storage of weapons, etc.).

Complaint Investigation: When a complaint against a child care facility is received, Licensing will investigate to determine if the allegations are substantiated or unsubstantiated. Only substantiated (proven) complaints are posted on a program's licensing records.

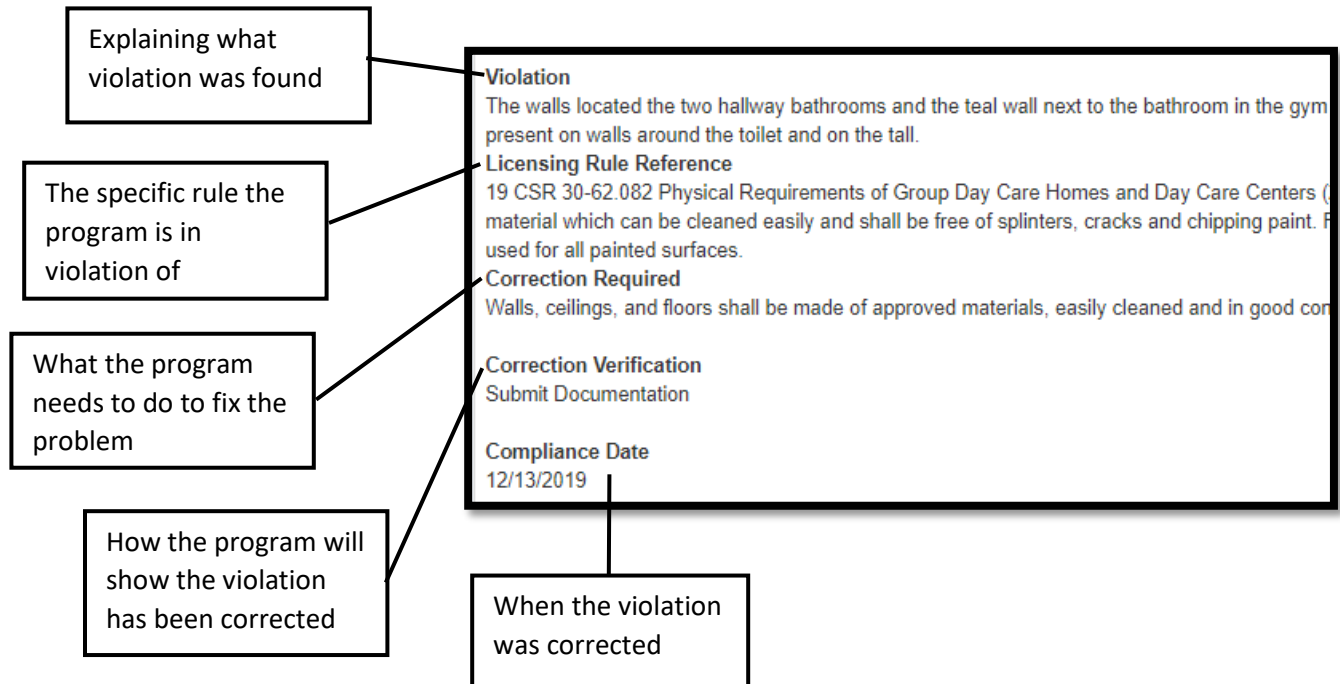
Remember, these reports will only tell you if a program is in compliance with state standards and any past proven complaints. To decide if a program is a good fit for your family, be sure to **ask questions, visit the facility, and assess if their policies and practices align with your own values.**



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Understanding Child Care Licensing Violations

It is not uncommon for a violation to be identified during Compliance Monitoring. Some violations might be minor issues the program is easily able to correct and do not pose any immediate harm or risk to the children in care. Other violations may be more serious. Violation details are available for you to review and evaluate your own comfort level with and perception of those violations.



| What you will find on a Child Care Licensing Report: | What you will not find on a Child Care Licensing Report: |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a program is following minimum standards set by the state - What violations were found during inspections and how the program fixed those issues - If there have been any substantiated, or proven, complaints against the program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A grade, rating, or personal opinion of the program - Any complaints that were un-substantiated, or unproven - Any disciplinary actions taken against the program |

Child Care Licensing Reports are provided with all Child Care Aware® of Missouri's referrals and can also be viewed at <https://healthapps.dhss.mo.gov/childcaresearch>.

Note from DESE: The records available for review may not reflect the complete history of a child care facility's compliance. Public records regarding a licensed or license-exempt child care facility or a registered child care facility receiving child care subsidy funding are available for review and/or may be requested from Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Office of Childhood.



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Contact us at 1-866-892-3228 OR email referralcenter@mo.childcareaware.org
 Visit our website at www.mo.childcareaware.org
 Funded by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Childhood.