

Renée Piché
Manager, Program Compliance and Review
Tel: 613-787-4078; 1-800-667-6190; Fax/Télécopieur: 613-787-3990
Ministry of Children and Youth Services; Ministry of Community and Social Services
347, rue Preston Street; 3e étage - 3rd Floor; Ottawa, ON K1S 3H8

August 19, 2010

Dear Mr. Piché,

Thank you very much for your letter of clarification, dated August 18, 2010, regarding visits among caregivers and the children in their care.

The interpretation in your letter ignores the part in the DNA that refers to "reward or compensation". The host caregiver is not receiving "reward or compensation" for the visiting children therefore they should not be counted in the host caregiver's numbers – at least that is our interpretation. According to this new interpretation the greater part of independent and agency affiliated home child providers have been breaking the law for years.

We don't believe that this interpretation will improve quality or prevent accidents. Most caregivers supervise their children carefully wherever they are. Most would also agree that their homes are much safer than parks and other public places. This loss of networking opportunities for both caregivers and children (networking exposes the children and caregivers to new ideas/toys/resources) and the imposed isolation (many caregivers do not have access to a vehicle and do not live close to recreational facilities) has the potential to decrease the quality of childcare and result in children who are not ready for school.

We will disseminate your letter to our caregivers (~800) and encourage them to contact your office at 613-787-5279 with any questions. However, there are many questions that we would like answers to:

1. Will the Ministry be opening up more Centres/playgroups for caregivers to help reduce this imposed isolation?
2. What about parents? Can they have more than 5 children in their home -not including their own? This becomes unclear as the interpretation ignores the "reward or compensation" aspect.
3. Can a caregiver with 5 daycare children visit a parent and his/her children in his/her home?
4. Can a parent and his/her children visit a caregiver with 5 daycare children in the caregiver's home?
5. How will this be monitored?
6. What are the consequences for non-compliance?
7. How/when will this information be disseminated to all caregivers across the City/Province?
8. Is this the Ministry's final interpretation?
9. What is our next step if we would like to challenge this?

Thank you for your time and for your efforts to clarify this important issue. We look forward to receiving the answers to the above mentioned questions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and the Members of CCPRN.

Doreen Cowin

Executive Director
Child Care Providers Resource Network