



Policy Brief from the Office of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner

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The real impact of illegal day care centers on New York families

Finding appropriate and safe child care is a daily struggle for New York families. Recent media reports highlight that illegal day care centers continue to sprout in apartments and homes across the five boroughs and New York State.

By law, all registered day care programs must be examined by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). These inspections include a review of licensing, complaint inspections and fire safety inspections. Currently, OCFS regulates the approximately 9,000 Family Day Care, Group Family Day Care, and School-Age Child Care programs in the five boroughs.

Increasing awareness around this very important issue, as well as giving the OCFS the enforcement power it needs to increase sanctions/penalties against providers that are flagged for serious violations of laws and regulations, is the right direction. We also need to give OCFS the affirmative duty to investigate child day care centers that are advertising their services, which will help in reducing the amount of illegal day care centers in New York.

Legislation:

Assembly Bill A.7451: An act to amend the social services law, in relation to investigation of illegally operating child day care services. This legislation will provide greater protection to families in regard to child care operations by mandating the Office of Children and Family Services to investigate and audit current child care operations advertising their services in New York State. This will limit the amount of illegal day care centers and encourage licensed providers to only take on children within their legal limit.

Message from Assemblywoman Joyner:

The safety and security of our children is my number one concern. There has been an increase in the number of illegal day care centers popping up in New York City and New York State, and more needs to be done to eliminate any worry a parent may have when dropping their children off at a child care program. We must ensure that the Office of Children and Family Services has the strength it needs to enforce the law and deter illegal operators from preying on families that need someone to watch over their loved ones. Hardworking New Yorkers depend on having access to affordable, quality child care. They deserve nothing less.

Number of Complaints by Seriousness in 2012:

	Non-Emergency	Serious	Imminent Danger
NYC	7	21	572
NYS	409	2,016	27

Source: NYS Office of Children and Family Services

95 %

• Percentage of complaints by seriousness considered to place children in imminent danger in New York City.

1 %

• Percentage of complaints by seriousness considered to place children in imminent danger in New York State.

Source: NYS Office of Children and Family Services