

RELIGIOUS EXEMPT CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Section 402.316, Florida Statutes

A child care facility may claim Religious Exemption from licensure if:

- ❖ It is an integral part of a church or parochial schools conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses of study or educational programs.
- ❖ It is accredited by, or by a member of, an organization that publishes and requires compliance with its standards for health, safety and sanitation.
- ❖ It meets background screening requirements in ss. 402.305, 402.3055, and 435.04, Florida Statutes.

A list of accrediting organizations is maintained by the Department of Children and Families and may be found on www.myflorida.com/childcare.

Religious exempt child care facilities must submit an affidavit annually to the Department of Children and Families stating all child care personnel have worked at the facility on a continuing basis since initial screening or have complied with screening requirements. This form is the Religious Exemption Statement (CF-FSP 5215) and may be obtained on www.myflorida.com/childcare.

A child care program may not operate and care for children until these requirements have been met.

Please contact the licensing office in your area for further information on religious exemption.

