

# Understanding the Minimum Standards and the Search Texas Child Care Website

## What are Minimum Standards?

Minimum standards are the rules that child care operations must follow. These rules are part of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) and, therefore, carry the force of law.

Child Care Regulation (CCR) has seven sets of minimum standards. Each set of Minimum Standards is based on a particular chapter of the TAC and corresponds to a specific child care operation permit type.

## How do I know which set of minimum standards a child care operation is required to follow?

The chart below lists which Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter each operation type is required to follow. The hyperlink in the column titled *TAC Chapter* will open the specific minimum standards publication CCR maintains for the convenience of providers, CCR staff, and the public<sup>1</sup>. Alternatively, you can view minimum standards publications on the CCR’s [Minimum Standards](#) webpage.

Child Care Operation Permit Type	TAC Chapter
<i>Day Care Operations</i>	
Listed Family Homes	742
Shelter Care	743
School-Age and Before or After School Programs	744
Child Care Centers	746
Registered & Licensed Child Care Homes	747
<i>24-Hour Residential Care Operations</i>	
General Residential Operations	748
Child-Placing Agencies (includes foster and adoptive homes)	749
<i>General Licensing</i>	
Outlines requirements for both CCR and all permit types <i>Some rules from this this Chapter are cross-referenced in Minimum Standards chapters instead of including the specifics of these rules in the Minimum Standards chapters. For example, Minimum Standards for all operations state the operation must follow the rules for Background Checks that are outlined in TAC Chapter 745.</i>	<a href="#">Title 26, Chapter 745</a> <sup>2</sup> <a href="#">Title 40, Chapter 745</a> <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The official source for all TAC rules is the [Secretary of State website](#).

<sup>2</sup> CCR does not maintain a publication for Chapter 745; therefore, the hyperlinks are to the Secretary of State website, which is the official source for TAC rules.

<sup>3</sup> Child Care Regulation is in the process of moving all Chapter 745 rules from Title 40 to Title 26. This Title includes rules on inspections, investigations, administrative reviews, and due process hearings.

**When I review the child care operation’s history, it indicates sections were evaluated, what does this mean?**

[Search Texas Child Care](#) lists all sections of minimum standards that were evaluated during an inspection and the count of each minimum standard within that section. For example (see screen shot) Section F: Activities, has 22 minimum standards that were evaluated. There were zero (0) violations, so CCR determined the operation was in compliance with all minimum standards in this section.

Note: In the Minimum Standards in the TAC, “section” is referred to as “subchapter.”

Section F: Activities Evaluated: 22, Violations: 0
Section A: Administration and Communication Evaluated: 94, Violations: 0
Section L: Discipline Evaluated: 19, Violations: 0

**Where can I find the minimum standards for each section that were evaluated?**

Refer to the chart at the beginning of this document to determine which chapter of minimum standards correspond to the operation’s permit type. For example, a child care center is regulated according to minimum standards in TAC Chapter 746. You can use the search feature or the Table of Contents to navigate to a specific minimum standard or section.

**When I review the child care operation’s history, it indicates individual minimum standards were evaluated, what does this mean?**

When [Search Texas Child Care](#) lists “individual standards evaluated,” it means that CCR evaluated one or more individual minimum standards from a section instead of evaluating the entire section associated with the minimum standard. This occurs when CCR:

- Provides technical assistance for a minimum standard found in compliance;
- Evaluates compliance with a minimum standard associated with an investigation; and/or
- Observes a deficiency of a minimum standard in a section that was not scheduled to be evaluated during the inspection.

Example: In the screen shot below, there were two (2) individual standards evaluated for a self-reported incident and two (2) violations cited. This means CCR determined that the operation was not in compliance with both individual minimum standards evaluated.

Date	Type
10/29/2020	Self Reported Incidents
Individual Standards Evaluated: Evaluated: 2, Violations: 2	

## How can I review the violations online that were cited during an inspection?

[Search Texas Child Care](#) features five years of inspection summary or compliance history on the Operation's Details page. There are several ways to navigate to view a violation (also referred to as a deficiency).

### *Option 1: View Violations by Type of CCR Activity*

The Operation Details Page includes a summary of the number of inspections, assessments, self-reported incidents, and reports that CCR conducted at an operation (see screenshot below). Clicking on the count (number) for any of these items will take you to a page that will display the violations CCR issued during that type of regulatory activity.

Specifically:

- Clicking on the hyperlink for the count of **Inspections** will take you to the list of violations from CCR inspections.
- Clicking on the hyperlink for the count of **Self Reported Incidents** will take you to the list of violations from CCR investigations conducted after CCR received a self-report from the operation.
- Clicking on the hyperlink for the count of **Reports** will take you to the list of violations from CCR investigations.

#### Five Year Inspection Summary

- Inspectors routinely monitor compliance with Licensing standards, rules and law. At a minimum, licensed and certified operations are inspected at least once a year; Registered Child Care Homes [?](#) are inspected at least once every two years, Listed Family Homes [?](#) are inspected only if there is a report of abuse/neglect or if we receive a report that the home is caring for too many children.
- When operations have serious deficiencies or a significant number of deficiencies, repeat deficiencies, or fail to make corrections timely, they are inspected more frequently by licensing staff, to ensure the health and safety of children in care.
- **In the last five years, Licensing conducted the following:**

[26](#) - Inspections [?](#)  
[0](#) - Assessments [?](#)  
[7](#) - Self Reported Incidents [?](#)  
[4](#) - Reports [?](#)

*Click on the inspection type to see additional details related to each inspection.*

- There are many standards that an operation must comply with; the total number varies for each type of operation. An operation or home is generally given an opportunity to correct deficiencies and has the right to request a review of a deficiency. Deficiencies pending review are not included in the Five year history.

### Option 2: View All Violations

You can determine the total number of individual minimum standards that were found to be compliant in the last five years. Clicking on the hyperlink for the number of deficiencies will take you to a list of all individual minimum standards cited in the past five years.

#### Five Year Compliance Summary

- During the last five years, 5709 standards were evaluated for compliance at this operation.
- Of the standards evaluated [44](#) deficiencies were cited. [?](#)

*Click on the number of deficiencies to see additional details.*

### Option 3: View Violations by Weight of the Minimum Standard

You can view individual minimum standards cited in the past five years by the weight of the minimum standard. Clicking on the hyperlink for each weight (High, Medium-High, etc.) will take you to a list of all violations for minimum standards with that weight.

- Each standard is assigned a weight. The weight ensures all inspectors consider standard violations in the same way, and represents the potential impact a deficiency might have on children. Review the inspection reports to learn more about each citation. It's important to remember; weights are not assigned to an individual operation, inspection, or circumstance and are not intended to result in a ranking of operations or score.

- The weights of the standard deficiencies cited in the past five years are as follows:

16 were weighted as [High](#)  
 13 were weighted as [Medium - High](#)  
 9 were weighted as [Medium](#)  
 1 was weighted as [Medium - Low](#)  
 5 were weighted as [Low](#)

*Click on the weight to see additional details about each deficiency.*

## How can I view details of the violation and learn if and how the operation corrected the deficiency?

After navigating to the list of violations using one of the options described above, select “click for narrative” to read the specific narrative that explains:

- how the individual minimum standard was deficient; and
- the follow-up information that outlines the correction result and associated narrative.

**Search Criteria**

Standard Risk Level:  Type of Licensing Activity:  Date:   
 Injury Determination:  Injury Caused By Violation:

Date	Standard Number/Description	Type	Standard Risk Level	Corrected at Inspection	Correction Deadline Date	Date Correction Evaluated	Narrative
3/5/2021	746.2209 - Posting of Activity Plan	Monitoring Inspections	Medium	Yes	3/5/2021		<a href="#">Click for Narrative...</a>
11/12/2020	746.1201(1) - Responsibilities of Employees and Caregivers -Demonstrate Competency, Good Judgment, Self-control	Self Reported Incidents	High	No	12/29/2020	1/6/2021	<a href="#">Click for Narrative...</a>

## Where can I review the inspection form?

Inspection forms are left with the child care operation at the time of the inspection. Day care operations are required to post the latest inspection form for your review.

## Where can I find more information regarding the regulatory process?

You can find more information about the regulatory process by visiting [Reports, Inspections & Enforcement Actions](#).