

Austin Parks and Recreation Department  
Centralized Programs Division

FACT SHEET: Local Standards of Care Ordinance

- 1) The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is *exempt* from Child Care Licensure by the State of Texas under Human Resources Code Chapter 42. Regulation of Certain Facilities, Homes, and Agencies that Provide Child-Care Services. Subchapter C. Regulation of Certain Families, Homes and Agencies.
- 2) The exemption is specific to *an elementary-age (ages 5-13) recreation program operated by a municipality provided the governing body of municipality annually adopts standards of care by ordinance after a public hearing for such programs, that such standards are provided to the parents of each program participant, and that the ordinances shall include, at a minimum, staffing ratios, minimum staff qualifications, minimum facility, health, and safety standards, and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing the adopted local standards; and further provided that parents be informed that the program is not licensed by the state and the program may not be advertised as a child-care facility.*
- 3) Recreational Programs affected by this ordinance include but are not limited to After School Programs, Summer Day Camp Programs, Spring Break Camps, Holiday Break Camps, and Conference Day Camps.
- 4) PARD notifies parents that the programs listed above are not licensed by the state and are not child-care facilities by the following:
  - a. Parks and Recreation Department Website (Parent Handbook)
  - b. Parent Handbook – Hard Copy, Electronic
- 5) The ordinance is made available in print upon request and posted in the following locations:
  - a. Recreational Facilities hosting youth programs
  - b. Parks and Recreation Department website
- 6) Language listed in the Parent Handbook

CHILDCARE LICENSING

PARD Programs are exempt from childcare licensing by the State of Texas for children 5 to 13 years of age. The Department is regulated by the Austin City Council through the Local Standards of Care for Youth Recreation Programs Ordinance. If you would like to review a copy of this ordinance, please visit our website at [www.austintexas.gov/recreation](http://www.austintexas.gov/recreation) or contact our main office at (512) 974-6700.