

Social Media Policy and Group Expectations for CDD Child Care Provider Facebook Group

The VT Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division created this group for regulated child care providers and staff of regulated child care, preschool and afterschool programs from Vermont to engage with the Division through the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter about early childhood and afterschool topics.

This is an open group, and comments members of the group make on this page will be available to the public. Commenting can only be made by members of the group. Requests to join the group will be checked to ensure the individual is a regulated child care provider or works at a regulated child care program from Vermont.

Conversations in this group will be related to the purpose of the group. In addition, members are asked to adhere to the policy below:

Social media use by the Child Development Division creates an opportunity for Vermont child care providers of all ages to engage with the Child Development Division and extend traditional channels for constituent service. The site also offers child care providers with diverse views an opportunity to engage with each other as they might in a local Town Meeting or other governmental public meeting. Content and comments in this site will be moderated accordingly as set forth below.

The Child Development Division welcomes engagement by child care providers in this group on social media at any time. However, given the need to manage state resources and content moderation, responses should only be expected during regular State of Vermont business hours. Commenting will be turned off on state holidays.

When engaging with the Child Development Division through social media you agree to the terms of the Child Development Division Social Media Policy (Policy). The Child Development Division may revise this Policy at any time, however we will provide notice of all Policy changes and identify the changes.

Further, when engaging with the Child Development Division on our Facebook sites you are subject to the Terms of Service (TOS) of the host site (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/terms.php>). Content (photos, videos, etc.) you share with or post to Child Development Division pages are subject to the TOS of the host site. The Child Development Division is not responsible for limits Facebook may place on speech as a result of violations of the TOS. Content shared may be used by the owners of the host site for their own purposes according to the site-specific TOS. The Child Development Division encourages the public to review host site TOS prior to engaging with our Facebook sites so they fully understand their rights.

User Generated Content

Constituents are encouraged to comment on the content on our Facebook sites. In order to ensure these forums, remain venues child care providers of all ages feel welcome to express diverse viewpoints and participate in democratic processes, content and comments shared should adhere to the standards outlined in this Policy and host site TOS, and should follow all copyright and trademark laws. The Child Development Division reserves the right to “hide” or remove content or comments that contain:

- Profane or obscene language or content.
- Defamatory language.
- Content intended to sexually harass others.
- Threats of violence or to public safety.
- Information that may compromise the safety or security of the public, including public systems, and infrastructure.
- Information that may compromise the safety or security of the State, including State employees.
- Personal attacks on individuals with offensive content or language which targets race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability status.
- Content that includes information which is confidential or personally identifying by law, rule or regulation. For your protection, never post sensitive personally identifying information on social media.
- Solicitations of commerce or advertisements for products, services, entities or individuals.
- Spam or links to malicious or harmful software.
- Content intended to impersonate another person or legitimate organization.

Customer Use Policy

Comments and content posted in our Facebook sites are reviewed by the Child Development Division.

The Child Development Division does not discriminate based on viewpoint. Content and comments will not be edited, but we reserve the right to 1) block certain words from appearing on the site through the Facebook profanity filter which will “hide” user generated content or comments or 2) manually “hide” or remove user generated content or comments if they violate the criteria above. “Hidden” content or comments are available to the commenter and “friends” only. Removal of content and comments will be reserved for the most egregious violations of this Policy. Comments removed from our Facebook account will be documented and saved by the Child Development Division and will be subject to the State of Vermont’s Public Records Act (PRA). No record is created when content or comments are automatically hidden by Facebook automated tools (such as the profanity filter), thus the Child Development Division

will be unable to provide records responsive to requests for this information. The list of words which are blocked from appearing on the site are available upon request made to the Child Development Division at AHS.DCFCDInfo@vermont.gov. Express or implied threats of violence or to public safety may be referred to the Vermont State Police or Department for Children and Families, Family Services Division for investigation.

Individual accounts will not be blocked or banned. Membership to this group is limited to regulated child care providers and staff of regulated preschool, child care and afterschool programs in Vermont. Accounts established as “bots” (automated accounts), fake accounts (not associated with a verifiable specific individual or organization, such as parody accounts), or spam accounts will be blocked or banned.

Disclaimer

- Liking and following an account, user or page by our Facebook accounts on third party sites does not equal an endorsement.
- Liking, commenting, or sharing specific content by our Facebook accounts does not equal an endorsement of the global third-party content.
- The Child Development Division is not responsible for, nor can it control content on third-party sites.
- The Child Development Division does not control nor guarantee the accuracy or completeness of information contained in external content or hypertext links linking to or from third-party websites.
- Third party content and links are not intended to reflect the opinion of the Child Development Division.