



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

PERSONAL SAFETY CURRICULUM NOTIFICATION FORM

Since 1985, Tennessee law has required that children in child care agencies receive annual instruction in personal safety, including child sexual abuse prevention. The personal safety curriculum shall include a Department-recognized component on the prevention of child abuse.

Public Chapter 1032 passed by the General Assembly in 2008 requires that child care agencies have a personal safety curriculum, including a child sexual abuse component, for children enrolled in the agency, and that parents/legal guardians be informed about the curriculum, methods and terminology that will be used in teaching children about personal safety. The Department of Human Services was directed to provide guidelines for this curriculum, but individual child care agencies may choose a curriculum that accomplishes the same goal, and may use different terminology in the curriculum. The child care agency is required to allow parents/legal guardians to review and ask questions about the curriculum, and to meet with representatives of the child care agency if they have questions.

In addition, the child care agency must obtain from parents/legal guardians a form acknowledging that they have been notified of the child sexual abuse/personal safety curriculum being used by the child care agency in which the child is enrolled. A copy of the form is required to be maintained in the child's record.

"Keeping Kids Safe" is the sample personal safety curriculum offered by the Department. This curriculum takes a holistic approach to the safety of children. The curriculum is composed of the following units: Self Esteem, Family & Friends, Feelings, Problem Solving, Personal Safety (general) and Personal Safety (4-5 year olds), and Safety Around Me. All sessions begin with group time and are followed by supplemental activities that give children additional practice in understanding the concepts. The curriculum uses hand puppets to serve as a group motivator and to introduce the stories. Together staff and parents decide what terminology to use when referring to the genitals, either the correct anatomical terms or the general term "private body parts."

(Continued on Reverse)

"Keeping Kids Safe" is the personal safety curriculum used by our child care agency.

Our agency uses another personal safety curriculum described below:

Method of Instruction:

Method of Instruction

Talking About Touching: A Personal Safety Curriculum teaches young students fundamental skills to help keep them safe from a range of dangerous or abusive situations. In early lessons, children learn and practice specific fire, bicycle, and gun safety rules. These lessons set the overall safety context for the program. Later lessons focus on the "always ask first" rule, the "touching rule," and unsafe touch. The lessons include skill-practice and transfer-of-learning activities. Photo cards are used in a group setting with discussion.

Sample Terminology:

"Private body parts" is the term used when referring to male and female genitals unless otherwise noted.

The instructional materials used in the agency personal safety curriculum are available for review by the parents or legal guardians.

I/We acknowledge that we have been provided an opportunity to review the agency's personal safety curriculum, and have been notified of the sexual abuse/personal safety curriculum for our child/children.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Agency Representative

Date