



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing

Child Care Centers Letter Series 2014-02

Date: May 12, 2014

To: All Child Care Center

From: James S. Sinnamon, Director
Child Care Licensing Division 

Subject: Infant Safe Sleep

In 2012, 134 infants died in Michigan due to unsafe sleep environments. In 2013, eight infants died in child care settings due to unsafe sleep practices.

As a child care professional, you are responsible for assuring for the safety and well-being of infants by placing infants to sleep on their backs instead of their stomachs. Research has shown that placing an infant to sleep on soft mattresses or other soft materials can increase the risk of death due to positional asphyxiation. Infants have been found dead with their faces, noses and mouths covered by soft bedding, such as pillows, quilts, comforters, and sheepskins. Infants have also died of asphyxiation due to sleeping in bouncy seats, swings and car seats. When an infant falls asleep in unapproved sleep equipment, the licensing rules require you to move the infant to a crib or porta-crib. Remember, suffocation is completely silent. It is up to you to monitor infants while they sleep.

As a result of these incidents, the department has created an infant safe sleep poster to remind caregivers and parents of the infant safe sleep rules. The enclosed poster must be placed in a location that is visible to parents when they come into your center.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact your licensing consultant.

cc: Child Care Licensing Consultants
Child Care Area Managers

Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.