



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Child Care Agencies Providing Transportation

CC: Child Care Licensing Staff and Partners

FROM: Lois Barrett Luke, Director of Licensing

DATE: May 28, 2010

SUBJECT: **SUMMER TRANSPORTATION HAZARD ALERT**

I am writing to remind you that it is that time of year again: summer temperatures greatly increase risk to children during transportation. Sunburn and dehydration are the most common risks - *but with temperatures inside a closed vehicle during hot weather rising to over a 107° within minutes there is also a very high danger of heatstroke, brain damage and death.*

Please remember that terrible accidents sometimes happen in good programs. Your Licensing Evaluator checks transportation at every visit, and we will be conducting extra visits over the hot summer months to specifically check transportation. We will be looking at more than whether the transportation logs have been properly completed – we will also be looking at your agency's policies, procedures, and the written plan you are using to supervise your staff and ensure that they are properly following the rules. Again, the Department's licensing staff will be observing how you run your transportation operation at every announced and unannounced visit.

Also please remember that *any* violation of a transportation regulation is a "major" violation that can subject your agency to major civil penalties, or even the suspension, denial or revocation of your license.

Children are at extreme risk during hot weather! Let us prevent any tragedies this year – ensure that all of your staff are being diligent every single day, and if you need any assistance with transportation training or any of the transportation rules, please contact your Licensing Evaluator or Supervisor.