

CHILD CARE IN THE COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY

For a parent, the most precious and prized possession is our child. I know we don't possess them, but our worlds evolve around them and we are responsible for them until they become of legal age.

Why then would we not do major investigation into any person or institution that proclaims to be "the" place for you to leave your child when you can not be there?

As the perception that care of a child in a home is better than "institutional" child care, many mothers who wish to stay home with their own children decide to care for other children to contribute to their household income.

Anyone wishing to open a child care facility whether in the home or in a formal business setting, must get a license from the Southern Nevada Health District and to operate a business in a home most of the Cities require that a business license be obtained as well.

According to the Southern Nevada Health District's website - As of January 2005, there are 281 licensed child care centers and 293 licensed home-based child care facilities permitted by the health district. As these statistics are over 4 years old, this figures may be obsolete, but it is interesting to find that there are more home licensed child care facilities than care centers.

Why is this important to you? Each license given to a child care provider licenses them to certain requirement, which includes the number of children.

When I managed a single family home of over 400 units I kept receiving a complaint from an owner who stated that the family next door was just too noisy and he thought that they were running a child care center as too many cars were coming in the morning and the evening to the property. He claimed that hot wheel type toys in the back yard made it impossible for his family to enjoy their back yard and asked me to check into it. He stated that there had to be at least 12 kids in the home.

The first thing I did was call the County Health Department to see if the owner had a license, which she did, but it was for only 6 children and none of them could be infants.

I asked them to conduct an investigation as the neighbor was complaining about children that clearly represented more than the 6 children.

During the inspection by the Health Department, it was discovered that there were in fact more than 12 children and infants were found asleep in closets where beds had been made inside the closets to ensure they didn't roll or wander out. There was a LOT of animal feces on the concrete pad where the hot wheel toys were used and the house was not in a sanitary condition. The child care facility was closed.

Not only did the owner get his peace, but he saved children (who just happened to be from his same community) from neglect and possible health issues.

If the association's documents state that there can be no businesses run from the home, the first thing you want to do is see if they have a license from either the City or County in which they are located to see if they are in fact have registered as a business and if the business is a child care facility check next with the Health Department. It could possibly save a child from serious neglect or improper care.