



Important Information for Parents



1. Are recreational camps required to provide copies of operating plans and procedures?

Yes. You may ask a camp representative to let you see copies of any of the required plans and procedures.

2. How can I be sure that background checks have been conducted?

You can request a copy of the camp's written policy on staff background checks from the camp director. Please note, however, that you are not authorized to review the staff person's actual criminal history record.

3. Can a camp discipline my child?

Yes. Camps are required to have a written disciplinary policy that explains their methods of appropriate discipline, e.g. 'time-out' from activities, sending a child to the camp director's office, etc. Under no circumstances, however, may a camper be subjected to corporal punishment, such as spanking, or punished by withholding food, or by subjecting a camper to verbal abuse or humiliation

4. What steps does a camp have to take to protect my child from abuse and neglect?

Public Health Regulation 105 CMR 430.000 requires all camps to have policies and procedures in place to protect campers from abuse and neglect while at camp. You may ask a camp representative for specific information on the camp's policies, as well as its procedures for reporting a suspected incident. In order to protect your child from possible abuse, you should talk openly and frequently with your child about how to stay safe around adults and other children.

5. Is the camp required to have a person on-site who knows first aid and CPR?

Yes. All licensed camps are required to have a health supervisor at the camp at all times who is at least 18 years of age and currently certified in first aid and CPR. The camp must provide backup for the health care supervisor from a Massachusetts licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse who serves as a health care consultant. Special needs camps, and residential camps where there are a large number of campers and staff, must have a licensed health care provider, such as a physician or nurse, on site.

6. How do I express concern or grievances about a Camp?

You can request a copy of the camp's written policy that explains their methods of expressing concerns and grievances.