

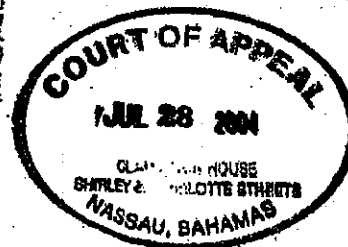


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No. 1 of 2004

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR
THE REGULATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
DAY-CARE CENTRES AND PRE-SCHOOLS**

[Date of Assent — 17th June, 2004]

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

- Short title** 1.(1) This Act may be cited as the Early Childhood Care and commence- Act, 2004.
- ment.** (2) This Act shall come into operation on such day as the Minister may appoint by notice published in the Gazette.
- Inter-** 2. In this Act -
- pretation.** "Council" means the Pre-school and Day-Care Centre Council established under section 3;
- "day-care centre" includes -
- (a) any place other than a private home operated by a person who receives compensation for the provision of non-residential care service, for more than five children up to five years of age;

(b) a nursery which provides non-residential care service for compensation for infants and toddlers from birth to two and a half years of age; and

(c) a private home operated by a person who receives compensation for the provision of non-residential care service, for more than five children under the age of eighteen months;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for pre-schools and day-care centres;

"operator" means a person entitled to be issued a licence to operate a day-care center or preschool under section 10 of the Act;

"pre-school" means any premises operated by a person who receives compensation for more than ten children between the ages of three to five years old for the purpose of care and instruction in all areas of child development as specified by the Ministry of Education;

"register" means the register of day-care centres and pre-schools kept by the Council in accordance with section 12.

Establishment of a Council. 3.(1) There is hereby established a body to be called the Pre-school and Day-Care Centre Council.

(2) The Council shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire, hold and dispose of land and other property of whatever kind and to sue and be sued.

First Schedule. (3) The First Schedule shall have effect with respect to the constitution and procedure of the Council and otherwise in relation thereto.

Functions of the Council. 4. The functions of the Council are -

- (a) to register buildings as day-care centres and pre-schools;
- (b) to regulate and inspect day-care centres and pre-schools;
- (c) to appoint qualified persons, (not being a person engaged in the management of a day-care centre or pre-school) to be inspectors for the purposes of this Act;
- (d) to govern, discipline and regulate the professional

conduct of operators and employees of day-care centres and pre-schools;

- (e) to issue certificates of registration of day-care centres and pre-schools under this Act;
- (f) to issue annual licences to operators of day-care centres and pre-schools under this Act;
- (g) to establish standards of qualifications for and to regulate the professional conduct of operators of any day-care centre and pre-school; and
- (h) to do such other things as may be prescribed by this Act or any other written law.

Registration of day-care centres and pre-schools. 5.(1) No person shall operate a day-care centre or a pre-school unless it is registered under this Act.

centres (2) The Council may, upon application in the prescribed manner and -

- (a) on being satisfied that the premises on which the day-care center or pre-school would be operating is fit for that purpose;
- (b) on being satisfied that all emergency, medical and disaster plans are in place in the day-care center or