



CITY OF
FORESTPARK
Life. Love. Learning.

CITY OF FOREST PARK

Planning & Community Development Department
785 Forest Parkway
Forest Park, Georgia 30297
(404) 608-2300 Fax: (404) 608-2306

August 28, 2023

While reviewing documentation provided by Mr. Waters, I contacted **THE GEORGIA DEPT OF EARLY CARE AND LEARNING, BRIGHT FROM THE START**. On Monday August 28, 2023, I spoke with Ms. Thomas from **GA DECAL, BRIGHT FROM THE START** at 770-405-7962. Ms. Thomas was able to verify that Life Christian Academy is in their system as an exempt status. She further advised me that an applicant can either be licensed, or exempt. Based on this information, it was determined that the exemption status letter and paperwork provided by Mr. Waters is legitimate. The letter submitted is signed by Chrissy Powell, who is the exemption unit manager at **GA DECAL, BRIGHT FROM THE START**.

Best Regards,

SaVaughn Irons

SaVaughn Irons

City Planner

BRIGHT FROM THE START
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 754 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-5957

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

Amy M. Jacobs
COMMISSIONER

April 29, 2021

Ms. Melissa Douglas, Program Official
Life Christian Academy School of Performing Art, LLC
721 Morrow Road
Forest Park, Georgia 30397

Re: Life Christian Academy
Exemption Program Number: EX-53206
741 Morrow Road
Forest Park, Georgia 30297
(Clayton County)

Dear Ms. Douglas:

On April 28, 2021, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning received an Exemption Amendment for the program at the above location. Based on a review of your program description, it was determined that this program meets the criteria for exemption from state licensure as follows:

591-1-1-46(1)(b)7. (EXMT-18033) Day camp programs for children five (5) years and older that are operated between school terms, whose primary purpose is to provide organized recreational, religious, or instructional activities. The day camp programs may operate during summer and other school breaks and shall operate for no more than twelve (12) hours per day.

CONDITIONS OF EXEMPTION:

- Ages of Children: 5 years through 17 years
- Operation Months: School Break (summer), School Breaks (other)
- Operation Days: Monday through Friday
- Operation Hours: Additional Hours : - Summer Hours : 7:00 am - 5:30 pm

Note: Exemption approval means this program is not licensed as a child care learning center and is not required to be licensed because the program operations meet the criteria as described above. Therefore, the program is not required to comply with the Bright from the Start Rules for Child Care Learning Centers. Unless participating in the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) subsidy program, Bright from the Start will not regulate or routinely inspect this program and will only monitor the program to ensure compliance with exemption criteria and requirements or to collect data. The facility must meet all local requirements, such as complying with building, zoning, and fire regulations. If you have any questions about participating in the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) subsidy program, visit [CAPS.dec.ga.gov](https://caps.dec.ga.gov), email caps.support@dec.ga.gov or call 404-657-3434 or 1-888-442-7735.

This exemption program number EX-53206 and the exemption category number EXMT-18033 remain valid as long as there are no changes in the program. If you alter the program in any way or move the program to a new location, you must submit a new exemption application for review. You must also notify

Bright from the Start if the program stops operating. This letter and the enclosed Exemption Notice must be posted in a conspicuous location for public viewing.

Also, enclosed are the requirements for exempt programs for you to use as a reference to ensure your program remains in compliance. Current information about exemptions can also be found at <http://www.dec.state.ga.gov/CCS/Exemptions.aspx>.

If you have questions or need general support, contact Rosalyn Elder at (404) 780-0868 or at rosalyn.elder@dec.state.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

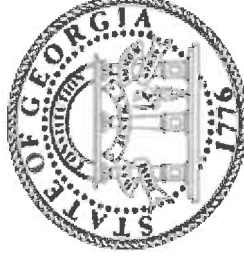


Chrissy Powell
Exemption Unit Manager

cc: Exemption File
Angelette Anderson

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Effective Date: April 29, 2021



This program is not licensed by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and is not required to be licensed. The program is not regulated and may not be routinely inspected.

Exemption Provider Number: EX-53206

Life Christian Academy

741 Morrow Road

Forest Park, Georgia 30297

“This exemption is granted pursuant to the authority vested in Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, O.C.G.A. §20-1A-14(b) et seq.”

Refer to the letter posted with this notice for details about the exemption(s) approved for this program.

**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning,
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-657-5562**

www.decal.ga.gov

THIS NOTICE AND THE EXEMPTION APPROVAL LETTER MUST BE POSTED IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION IN THE PROGRAM.



Licensed Providers and Exempt Providers: What are the Differences?

Licensed Providers

Who should become licensed?

- Providers caring for more than six children in a commercial location for pay are licensed as Child Care Learning Centers (CCLC)
- Residential homes caring for more than two unrelated children for pay are licensed as Family Child Care Learning Homes (FCCLH)

What are the benefits of being licensed?

- Public assurance of safe, healthy, nurturing standards
- Access to other services to benefit the provider and children including CAPS, CACFP, and Quality Rated
- Legal compliance and more flexibility in services offered to families

What are the first steps in starting a CCLC or FCCLH?

The first step in applying for an initial license is to review the requirements found at <http://decal.ga.gov/CCS/StartingACenter.aspx> and the Rules and Regulations found at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>. Next, the provider should participate in the online licensure orientation training applicable to the type of facility they will operate. Participants register for the courses through the Georgia Professional Development System at <https://gapds.decal.ga.gov>

Can exempt providers become licensed?

Yes. Exempt providers who wish to become licensed will follow the same procedures as initial applicants to begin the licensing process.

Are licensed providers monitored?

Yes, in addition to the initial licensing visit that is required to obtain official permission to operate, licensed providers are monitored at least twice each year. In addition, providers receive visits when an incident or complaint arises and as a follow up after citations are issued.

Do Licensed providers reapply or renew their license each year?

The license continues, but there is a fee to renew the license each year. The fee is based on the licensed capacity and is due November 1–December 31.

Email: ApplicantServicesUnit@decal.ga.gov

Exempt Providers

What is an Exemption?

An exemption is an exception to the requirements that a business or a person must be licensed. These providers must adhere to Exemption rules and regulations. Georgia law requires that anyone caring for more than two children for pay must be licensed or obtain exemption approval. The application process and the 14 categories of Exemptions are explained at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/Exemptions.aspx>

Who can apply for an exemption?

Anyone operating in a commercial location can apply for an exemption. Those operating in residential homes (FCCLHs) cannot apply for exemptions. The Exemption is granted if the provider operates according to the criteria established for an exempt provider.

Can exempt providers receive funding from Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), Nutrition Services (CACFP/SFSP), or participate in Quality Rated?

Only facilities in Categories 1 (government owned and operated) and 7 (day camps) are eligible to receive CAPS funding. All providers can participate in Nutrition Services programs if they qualify. Exempt providers cannot participate in Quality Rated.

Are exempt providers monitored?

Yes, exempt providers are monitored and visits are conducted. Providers may receive an initial visit prior to approval. All providers will receive a monitoring visit based on a random sampling percentage of providers visited each year. Providers receiving CAPS funds receive annual visits.

Are exempt providers required to renew their exemptions annually?

No. As long as the exempt provider remains at the same address and maintains the same owner/operator, the exemption will continue to be active. Exempt providers must comply with all rules set by state and local authorities governing topics such as—but not limited to—zoning, fire safety, and construction.

Do administrators and staff of exempt providers have to be fingerprinted?

DECAL encourages all exempt providers to require some form of fingerprinting to ensure safe and quality care of children. Exempt and non-exempt providers receiving CAPS funds must comply with DECAL fingerprinting rules.

Email: CCSExemptions@decal.ga.gov

Rule 591-1-1-.46 Exemptions

(1) All programs providing group care for children shall obtain either a license or a commission for an early care and education program or an exemption from the department, as applicable. Any person or entity operating or planning to operate such a service believed to meet the criteria for exemption from licensure, as listed below, shall apply to the department for exemption by submitting the department's application for exemption.

(a) Exemption Requirements.

1. The application for exemption shall be notarized and shall include:

- (i) A valid and current e-mail address,
- (ii) A written description of services, fees, ages of children to be served, months, days, and hours of operation and location,
- (iii) Copies of written policies, advertisements, parental agreement forms, and other materials to support the criteria for exemption as determined by the department.
- (iv) A sworn statement that the information provided to the department is accurate and truthful.

2. The exemptions granted by the department are exemptions from licensure, and do not affect the authority of local, regional or state health department officials, the state fire marshal, local fire prevention officials, local or regional building officials or zoning officials to inspect and approve facilities and locations. Programs operated in a residence are not eligible for exemption. Additionally, the exemption is only valid at the address listed on the application.

3. A program granted an exemption shall post in a prominent place near the front entrance of the facility both a copy of the exemption approval letter issued by the department and a notice provided by the department that will notify a parent or guardian that the program is not licensed and is not required to be licensed by the state. The notice shall be at least ½ inch letters and shall contain the department's telephone number and website address.

4. A program approved for exemption shall maintain attendance records for children. When a parent or guardian initially registers a child with an exempt program, the parent or guardian shall sign a form indicating the parent or guardian has been advised and understands that the program is not licensed and is not required to be licensed by the state. The program must maintain the attendance records and parental notification forms during the time the child is enrolled in the program and for one year after the child no longer attends the program. All records shall be made available to any authorized representative of the department upon request.

5. Any program granted an exemption from licensure that subsequently loses accreditation, closes and/or ceases operation shall notify the department in writing within five (5) business days of such a change. A program granted an exemption that has subsequent material changes in the operation of their program, such as, but not limited to, a change of physical location, a change in operating months, days, and/or hours, or a

change in the ages served shall be required to submit a new application for exemption to the department.

6. Programs granted an exemption may be required to periodically update the department on the status of their exemption and operating information such as but not limited to submitting an annual report that would contain information related to the exemption approval.

7. The department may rescind an approval for exemption when one or more of the following is determined by the department:

- (i) The program no longer meets the criteria for the exemption.
- (ii) The program provided false information during the exemption request process or during an investigation.
- (iii) The program failed to comply with local, regional, and state health department, fire marshal, fire prevention, and building/zoning guidelines/requirements.
- (iv) The program failed to provide the department with a valid and current e-mail address or with other information requested by the department, such as but not limited to, the months, days, and hours of operation, ages of children served and operating address.

(b) Exemption Categories. The following types of programs shall be exempt from licensure:

1. Programs which are owned and operated by any department or agency of state, county, or municipal government. This includes, but is not limited to, the customary school day, as defined in Georgia law, and before and/or after school programs in public schools operated by the public school system and staffed with school system employees and recreation programs operated by city or county parks and recreation departments and staffed with city or county employees.

2. Private non-public educational programs with an established curriculum for children five (5) years and older that operate during the school term for the customary school day, as defined by Georgia law.

3. A private non-public school which provides education in any grades from kindergarten through 12th grade, meets the requirements under Georgia law for private schools (See O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690), and is accredited by one or more of the entities listed in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-519(6)(A) and which provides care before, after, or both before and after the customary school day, as defined in Georgia law, to its students as an auxiliary service to such students during the regular school year only. The accrediting entities listed in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-519(6)(A) are:

- (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- (ii) The Georgia Accrediting Commission;
- (iii) The Georgia Association of Christian Schools;
- (iv) The Association of Christian Schools International;
- (v) The Georgia Private School Accreditation Council;
- (vi) The Southern Association of Independent Schools;
- (vii) The Accrediting Commission for Independent Study. (O.C.G.A § 20-3- 519(6.1)(A).

4. Accredited private non-public educational programs with an established curriculum for four-year-old children for the customary school day, as defined in Georgia law, that are not part of a full day child care learning center and are an integral part of an accredited private non-public school that provides elementary or secondary instruction or both, providing the accreditation specifically covers these ages; any before and/or after school hours for four-year-old children who attend such a program as described above, provided the children do not leave the premises of the accredited private non-public school and the program is staffed with employees of that private non-public school.

5. Parent's Morning Out, Parent's Night Out, or similar programs which operate for no more than one session of up to four (4) consecutive hours per day and which limit attendance to no more than eight (8) hours a week per child.

6. Nursery schools, playschools, kindergartens or other educational programs for children two (2) years through six (6) years of age which operate for no more than four (4) consecutive hours per day.

7. Day camp programs for children five (5) years and older that are operated between school terms, whose primary purpose is to provide organized recreational, religious, or instructional activities. The day camp programs may operate during summer and other school breaks and shall operate for no more than twelve (12) hours per day.

8. Short-term educational or recreational activities or classes for children in which the supervision and care of the children are incidental to their participation in the activity or training in specific subjects, such as, but not limited to, music lessons, dance classes, swim lessons, etc. The provider is not assuming responsibility for supervision and care of the children outside of the classes or activities the children participate in and shall not advertise or otherwise represent that child care services are offered.

9. Any short-term child care service provided by an establishment, such as, but not limited to, a religious facility, health club, or retail store, and such program or service meets all of the following:

- (i) Operated on the premises of the establishment;
- (ii) Operated for the convenience of the parents, guardians, or custodians and for the use of on-duty employees or students attending classes;
- (iii) Parents, guardians, or custodians are participating in activities provided by the establishment on the premises of the establishment;
- (iv) Parents, guardians, or custodians are readily available;
- (v) Attendance of child in the short-term child care service is limited to no more than four (4) hours per day and no more than ten (10) hours per week, except in the instance of child care services offered at infrequent events such as, but not limited to, conferences and weddings.

10. Programs operated after the customary school day, as defined in Georgia law, for children five (5) years and older that are strictly instructional and skill-based in a single talent, ability, expertise, proficiency or subject or in closely related skills, proficiencies or

subjects, including but not limited to classes such as art, cheerleading, dance, drama, gymnastics, martial arts and music, and the programs comply with all of the following:

- (i) Programs provide direct instruction in the single skill or subject and/or closely related skills or subjects to every child each day the child is present;
- (ii) Programs do not provide services that are not directly related to the single skill or subject or to the closely related skills or subjects, such as but not limited to homework assistance. During the hours of operation, programs may provide services related to the instruction, such as transportation and giving children time to change into proper clothes/gear;
- (iii) Programs shall not advertise or otherwise represent that the program is a child care facility, an after school program, or that the program offers child care services;
- (iv) Programs shall not prepare meals and snacks, but may provide ready-to-eat snacks, such as pre-packaged snacks;
- (v) The majority of the program staff responsible for instruction shall possess specialized qualifications to instruct in that skill or subject, and the program shall submit documentation of such specialized qualifications of staff to the department at the time of application for exemption or as requested by the department;
- (vi) Programs shall inform parents or guardians about the physical risks a child may face while participating in the program;
- (vii) Such programs shall not be an integral part of a licensed child care learning center or day care center;
- (viii) Enrollment information shall clearly define the duration of the program.

11. Short term educational programs offered to school-aged children in which the supervision and care of the children are incidental to their participation in the short-term educational program, and the provider is not assuming responsibility for the provision of daily child care outside the scheduled program. The majority of staff responsible for the direct delivery of education services to children possesses specialized qualifications that are directly related to the short term educational programs being offered, and the program shall submit documentation of such specialized qualifications to the department at the time of application for exemption or as requested by the department. The sole or primary purpose of such short term educational programs is:

- (i) To prepare children for advancement to the next educational level through a prescribed course of study or curriculum;
- (ii) To provide specialized tutoring services through a prescribed course of study or curriculum to assist children with the passage of mandatory educational proficiency examinations;
- (iii) To provide specialized tutoring services through a prescribed course of study or curriculum to assist children in specific academic areas, such as, but not limited to, foreign language, mathematics, science, etc.

12. Any program or facility providing care for school-aged children that is operated by, or in affiliation with a national membership non-profit organization that was created for the purpose of providing youth services and youth development, that charges a membership fee for children and may receive monthly, weekly, or daily fees for services. Such program or facility holds membership in good standing and is certified by its

national association as complying with the association's purposes, procedures, minimum standards and mandatory requirements. Such national membership organizations include, but are not limited to, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

13. Any program providing group care for children for no pay.

14. A center that is licensed by the department may request an exemption from licensure if the center's program is an integral part of an established religious congregation or religious school that conducts regularly scheduled classes, courses of study, or educational programs and is a member of or accredited by or certified by a state, regional, or national accrediting agency for religious educational instruction or a state, regional, or national accrediting agency for educational instruction as recognized and approved by the department if such accrediting entity uses standards that are substantially similar to those established by the department. In addition to the requirements listed above applicable to all exemptions, the following additional requirements shall apply to centers seeking an exemption under this provision:

(i) A center seeking such exemption from licensure shall be required to submit to the department documentation of certification or accreditation, including a copy of its most recent certification or accreditation inspection report, and any other pertinent documentation as requested by the department, such as non-profit tax-exempt verification. The accrediting agency must conduct regularly scheduled visits to the center while such center remains accredited.

(ii) If such exemption is granted, the center shall submit annual documentation to the department verifying its continued certification or accreditation, including a copy of its most recent certification or accreditation inspection report, and other pertinent documentation as may be requested by the department.

(iii) Such exemptions granted by the department are valid as long as the center remains certified or accredited. The program shall provide the department written notice within five (5) business days of the center's loss of certification or accreditation, including a copy of such notification from the certifying or accrediting entity. The department shall rescind the center's exemption granted herein upon notification of the loss of certification or accreditation.

(iv) Any center seeking such exemption shall comply with all applicable requirements for background checks for directors/employees as required in O.C.G.A. § 20-1A-30 et seq., Chapter 591-1-1, Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, department policies, as well as applicable local, regional, and state health department, state fire marshal, and local fire prevention guidelines/requirements while such exemption is in effect. The department retains jurisdiction over centers granted such exemption to conduct unannounced periodic background check audits and to conduct complaint investigations regarding compliance with background check requirements, as well as compliance with local, regional, and state health department, state fire marshal, and local fire prevention guidelines/requirements.

(v) The department may rescind such exemption for a center's failure to comply with the requirements for background checks for directors/employees pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-1A-30 et seq., Chapter 591-1-1, Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, and department policies.

(vi) Any center applying for such exemption that is owned and/or under the legal control/direction of the certifying or accrediting entity shall not be approved by the department.

(vii) A center seeking such exemption shall adopt and comply with the minimum standards of its certifying or accrediting entity for the operation of the center's program. Such minimum standards adopted by the center shall be published and made available to parents of enrolled or prospective children upon request.

(viii) A center granted such exemption shall comply with the requirements regarding notification to parents of enrolled children if the center does not carry liability insurance.

History: New Rule entitled "Exemptions" adopted. F. Nov. 16, 2012; eff. Dec. 6, 2012.