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**THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON**  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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**ORDINANCE**  
NUMBER 2026-010

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**AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS,  
AMENDING TITLE 11 OF THE THORNTON MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING  
REGULATIONS FOR HOME DAY CARE AND DAY CARE CENTERS**

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**MAXINE REYNOLDS, Village President**  
**NIKKI KITAKIS, Village Clerk**

**ROSEMARY CUNNINGHAM**  
**GINA GLASER**  
**ERNEST "BO" KAYE**  
**PHILLIP MIDDLEBROOKS**  
**DEBRA PISARZEWSKI**  
**MARTIN PRATSCHER**  
**Trustees**

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**WHEREAS**, the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois (the “*Village*”) is a home rule municipality pursuant to Section 6(a), Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs (the “*Home Rule Powers*”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Village President and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton (the “*Corporate Authorities*”) have exercised the power conferred on them pursuant to the Village’s Home Rule Powers by adopting Chapter 11 of the Thornton Municipal Code, entitled the Thornton Zoning Ordinance (the “*Zoning Code*”); and

**WHEREAS**, Section 11-10-6 of the Thornton Municipal Code authorizes the Corporate Authorities, following review and recommendation by the Planning and Development Commission, to amend the Thornton Zoning Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Thornton (the “*Petitioner*”) submitted a petition seeking approval of a text amendment to Title 11 of the Thornton Municipal Code to establish zoning regulations governing childcare uses within the Village, including Home Day Care and Day Care Center uses (the “*Proposed Text Amendment*”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Proposed Text Amendment establishes definitions for “Home Day Care” and “Day Care Center,” permits Home Day Care as an accessory use within Residential Districts subject to operational standards, requires Day Care Centers to obtain Special Use approval pursuant to Chapter 11-9 of the Thornton Municipal Code, and requires all day care operations to

maintain any applicable State of Illinois licensing and be subject to periodic inspection by the Thornton Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning and Development Commission of the Village of Thornton (the “*Plan Commission*”) conducted a duly noticed public hearing on March 11, 2026, at which time all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard; and

**WHEREAS**, at the conclusion of the public hearing, the Plan Commission voted to recommend approval of the Proposed Text Amendment and forwarded its findings of fact and recommendation to the Corporate Authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corporate Authorities have duly considered the Plan Commission’s recommendation and findings of fact along with the petition and all other relevant materials and have determined that the Proposed Text Amendment is consistent with the purposes of the Thornton Zoning Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corporate Authorities deem it advisable and in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Village to approve the Proposed Text Amendment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois, by and through its Home Rule Powers as follows:

**Section 1.** That the above recitals and legislative findings are found to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

**Section 2.** The Corporate Authorities hereby adopt the findings of fact of the Plan Commission dated March 11, 2026, as the findings of the Village President and Board of Trustees. All documents, plans, and exhibits submitted as part of the public hearing record are incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 3.** In addition to the findings set forth in Section 2 above, the Corporate Authorities further find that the Proposed Text Amendment:

- A. Is consistent with the purposes and intent of the Thornton Zoning Code as set forth in Section 11-1-2;
- B. Promotes the public health, safety, morals, comfort, and general welfare of the residents of the Village;
- C. Protects the character and stability of neighborhoods and land uses within the Village;
- D. Provides clarity and consistency in the interpretation, administration, and enforcement of the Thornton Zoning Code; and
- E. Advances the orderly development and land use planning objectives of the Village.

**Section 4.** Section 11-1-3 (“*Definitions*”) of Chapter 11-1 (“*Title, Purpose and Definitions*”) of Title 11 (“*Zoning*”) of the Thornton Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the following definitions in proper alphabetical order, to read as follows:

A. In the construction of this Title, the rules and definitions contained in this section shall be observed and applied, except when the context clearly indicates otherwise.

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F. Defined Terms

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DAY CARE CENTER: A facility providing care, supervision, or instruction for children for periods of less than twenty-four (24) hours per day that is not classified as a Home Day Care.

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HOME DAY CARE: A childcare operation conducted within a dwelling unit by a resident of the premises that provides care for children for periods of less than twenty-four (24) hours per day and that maintains a valid license issued by the State of Illinois, where required by state law.

**Section 5.** Section 11-9-2 (“*Permitted Special Uses*”) of Chapter 11-9 (“*Special Uses*”) of Title 11 (“*Zoning*”) of the Thornton Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the underlined language to the table therein in proper alphabetical order, to read as follows:

<b>Use</b>	<b>District Allowed In</b>
Adult Use  ***	I District
<u>Day Care Center</u>	<u>Any "R" District</u>

**Section 6.** Chapter 11-2 (“*General Provisions*”) of Title 11 (“*Zoning*”) of the Thornton Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding new Section 11-2-10 (“*Day Care Regulations*”), which shall read as follows:

§11-2-10 Day Care Regulations

- A. *Applicability.* The provisions of this section shall apply to all Home Day Care and Day Care Center uses within the Village.
- B. *State Licensing.* All day care operations shall maintain a valid license issued by the State of Illinois, when such licensing is required by applicable state law. Proof of such license shall be provided to the Village upon request.
- C. *Fire Department Inspections.* All day care operations shall be subject to inspection by the Thornton Fire Department not less than two (2) times per year to verify compliance with applicable fire and life safety requirements.
- D. *Home Day Care Standards.* Home Day Care operations shall comply with the following additional standards:
  - 1. The operator shall reside in the dwelling where the Home Day Care is conducted.
  - 2. A fenced outdoor play area shall be provided on the premises for use by children attending the Home Day Care.
  - 3. The operation shall comply with all applicable building, fire, and life safety codes.
- E. *Day Care Centers.* Day Care Centers shall require special use approval pursuant to

Chapter 11-9 of this Title.

**Section 7.** If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance.

**Section 8.** All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 9.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

*(Intentionally Left Blank)*

**ADOPTED** by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton,  
Cook County, Illinois this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026, pursuant to a roll call vote, as follows:

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
CUNNINGHAM				
GLASER				
KAYE				
MIDDLEBROOKS				
PISARZEWSKI				
PRATSCHER				
VILLAGE PRESIDENT REYNOLDS				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

**APPROVED** by the Village President of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois  
on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

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MAXINE REYNOLDS  
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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NIKKI KITAKIS  
VILLAGE CLERK