



Township of Teaneck

Celebrating 125 Years

1895 - 2020



Regulations/Rules Regarding Camps/Day Care Centers

Township of Teaneck

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As a general rule, in New Jersey, any activities involving fewer than 5 children under 18 years of age will not qualify as a camp. Specifically, N.J.S.A. 26:12-5 permits the Commissioner of the NJ Department of Health to develop, and by rule and regulation promulgate, modify or revoke youth camp safety standards. Those standards are set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.1, et. seq., which is entitled, "New Jersey Youth Camp Safety Standards." That section of the New Jersey Administrative Code defines a "youth camp" or "camp" as:

Any parcel or parcels of land having the general characteristics and features of a camp as the term is generally understood, used wholly or in part for recreational or educational purposes **that accommodates five or more children under 18 years of age**, other than counselors or lifeguards, **for a period of, or portions of, two days or more within the same week** and includes a site that is operated as a day camp or as a resident camp.

The regulations go on to state that, "a youth camp or camp does not include a day program, which offers only a minimal recreational component, if the recreational component included in the day program involves no high risk activity." High risk activity is defined as "any recreational component, sport or activity of a youth camp, which exposes a camper to a life-threatening or serious injury because of the inherent danger of the recreational component, sport or activity and which requires a high level of adult supervision at all times." They include, but are not limited to, archery, swimming and other aquatic activities, horseback riding, riflery, rope courses, motorized vehicles, and rock climbing.

The regulations define a day camp as a "youth camp that operates during the day but may occasionally allow an overnight stay for no more than one night per week." They also define a resident camp as "a youth camp that as a matter of its business has the campers stay overnight on a regular basis."

Another caution to residents is that, while the recreational activities conducted at their home may not meet the definition of a camp, a private home can be considered a "Child care center." A "Child care center" is defined as "any home or facility, by whatever name known, which is maintained for the care, development, or supervision of six or more children under 13 years of age who attend for less than 24 hours a day." In that instance, there are additional and significant licensing requirements and regulations.