

Documenting Absences

Extraordinary Circumstances

- In the event of extraordinary circumstances up to 7 additional authorized absences per month may be reimbursed with the required documentation provided by the parent
- These authorized absences should be marked with an "A"
- Total monthly reimbursed absences
 WILL NEVER exceed 10 calendar days
- Examples of extraordinary circumstances include the following:
- Hospitalization of the child or parent (i.e., hospital discharge papers)

- Illness requiring home-stay (i.e., physician note or parent note)
- Death in the immediate family (i.e., obituary, death certificate)
- Court ordered visitation (i.e., court order)
- Unforeseen documented military deployment or exercise (i.e., military paperwork)
- Absences that are not extraordinary circumstances will not be paid.
- Examples of unexcused absences are not attending for vacation, parent's days off of work or the grandparents are in town visiting

Reporting Absences Continued

- In the event that a child is absent for <u>5 consecutive days</u> with no contact from the parent, the provider shall notify the Coalition in writing by the end of the 5th day
- The Coalition will determine the need for continued care
- If a termination is filed the notice will be sent to the provider



REPORTING ABSENCES At Risk Children

- According to F.S. 6M 4.500, an SR program provider shall comply with the reporting requirements of the Rilya Wilson Act for each at-risk child under the age of school entry who is enrolled in the SR program
- SR Child Care Providers are notified by the ELCLC when they have a child in care identified under the Rilya Wilson Act
- One unexcused or seven consecutive absences must be reported **IMMEDIATELY** to the child's DCF Caseworker

REQUIRED PARENT COPAYMENTS OR FEES

Child care providers are mandated by law to collect and document the receipt of the parent copayment or fee by issuing the parent a receipt

- A sliding fee scale is used to determine each family's contribution (copayment or fee) to the cost of child care
- The copayment is based on the family size and annualized income
- The copayment will be subtracted from the provider's reimbursement, • The ELCLC cannot be responsible for prior to payment by the ELCLC
- The Payment Certificate includes the copayment to be paid by the parent to the provider
- The ELCLC will inform the parent that the provider may charge additional fees. The provider will need to review these fees with the parent
 - enforcing any other payment made between the parent and the provider
 - The provider is responsible for collecting the parent's copayment

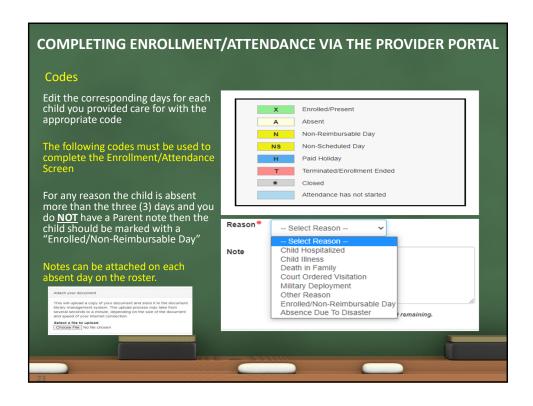


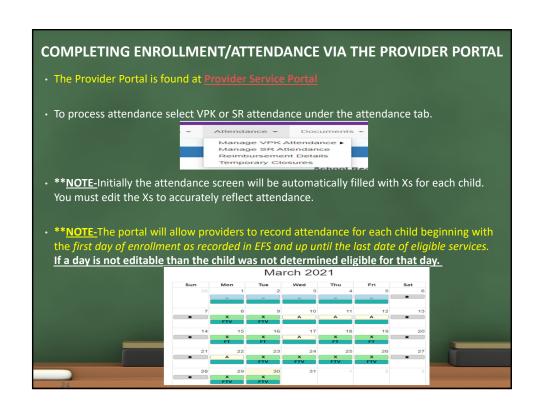
REQUIRED PARENT COPAYMENTS OR FEES

- The provider shall provide written notice of the copayment due date
- The parent copayment shall be collected within <u>10 calendar days</u> of the provider's due date
- The provider must give the parent a receipt for each copayment made by the parent
- The provider must retain the receipt records for all child care copayments
- These records must be available for the ELCLC to review upon request
- The provider shall document outstanding parent copayment balances and provide the parent with a copy within 15 calendar days of the provider's payment due date
- This notification shall be provided at least on a monthly basis as long as there is a copayment balance
- Outstanding parent copayments will be subject to the provider's payment policies as acknowledged and agreed upon by the parent

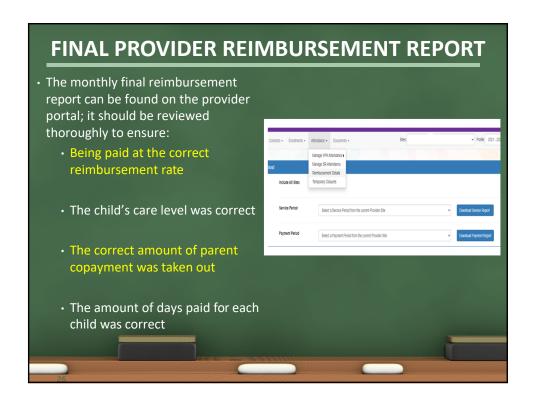
REQUIRED PARENT COPAYMENTS OR FEES

- The provider shall document the parent's acknowledgement of the receipt of payment policies prior to the parent enrolling their children in the provider's SR program
- If the provider intends to take action, in accordance with its policy, against a parent for nonpayment of the copayment, and it includes dis-enrolling the child from the provider's site, the provider shall notify the ELCLC at least 5 calendar days prior to the disenrollment
- A parent may not transfer their child to another SR provider until the parent has submitted documentation to the ELCLC, from the current SR provider, stating that the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation related to the SR program
 - Satisfactory fulfillment of the copayment obligation is defined as immediate payment of the outstanding copayment obligation or establishment of a repayment plan for the outstanding copayment balance





COMPLETING ENROLLMENT/ATTENDANCE VIA THE PROVIDER PORTAL Submitting Attendance • Enrollment/Attendance must be submitted no earlier than the last business day of the month care is provided and no later than the 3rd business day of the month that follows • Enrollment/Attendance submitted prior to or after the due date will be considered late and will not be processed in the current month • Enrollment/Attendance forms submitted after 60 days in which care was provided WILL NOT BE PAID • The provider must submit the sign-in/out sheets to correspond with the Enrollment/Attendance on a monthly basis



ADJUSTMENTS Once the provider receives their Final Reimbursement Report they Request for Adjustment Form should thoroughly inspect it for accuracy Please check: If discrepancies are found the Request for Adjustment Form should be utilized and submitted to the | Calid's Name: SSN: Parent Fee: **ELCLC** within 30 days Aild's Name: SSN: Parent Fee: • If approved, adjustments will be made on the next monthly reimbursement

AUDITS/SR MONITORING

- Post attendance/reimbursement reviews will be conducted for all providers to ensure the accuracy of the payments of the monthly reimbursement requests
- Attendance reviews will also take place on-site at the child care home or facility. This information will be reviewed and compared to the Enrollment/Attendance submitted for the corresponding month
- If the provider fails to provide any requested documents during a site visit, this will result in nonpayment for any SR children for that day
- Providers are responsible for cooperating with any requests for documentation related to the auditing of fiscal compliance with school readiness funding
- Providers will not be reimbursed for any child in any child care setting where there is documentation that the provider exceeded the DCF ratio or capacity requirements.
- The audit will further be used to document compliance with maintaining verifiable records of attendance and that all forms are being completed accurately
 - Technical assistance will be provided in areas found deficient

FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION

PROVIDERS

- Providers must understand that attendance sheets and supporting forms are legal records of a child's attendance at a provider's site and are engage in any activity, or be a official documentation for payments to providers
- Anyone who misrepresents information, supplies false information, or who alters the information will have payments disallowed and may be prosecuted for relative, friend or business fraud as outlined in the Provider Contract
- Providers **MUST NEVER** use their position as a SR Provider to party to, any form of deception, misrepresentation, falsification, fraudulent or unlawful behavior in order to affect a personal gain, or the personal gain of any associate



FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION

PROVIDERS

- In accordance with s. 1002.82(6)(d), F.S., if it is determined that the provider has given cash or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for receiving a payment certificate, the ELCLC shall refer the matter to the Department of Financial
- In accordance with S. 1002.91(4), F.S., the ELCLC may suspend or terminate a provider from participation in the SR program when it has reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed fraud. If suspended, the provider shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation by the Office of Early Learning, DFS, Services, DFS, for investigation or any other state of federal agency, and any subsequent prosecution or other legal proceedings

FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION

PROVIDERS

- In accordance with S. 1002.91(5), F.S., if the provider or owner, officer, or board of director is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, F.S., or is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who had been convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, F.S., the ELCLC shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of the provider for a period of 5 years
- In addition, the ELCLC shall refrain from contracting with, or using the service of, any provider that shares an officer of board direction with a provider that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, F.S., for a period of <u>5 years</u>

FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION

PROVIDERS

- In accordance with S. 1002.91(7), F.S., if the provider is placed on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List, the ELCLC must terminate the provider's contract for cause
- In addition, if the provider share an officer or board director with a provider that is on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List, the ELCLC must terminate their contract for cause

