

**WHAT IS A LICENSED RECREATIONAL**



local health department will verify that SORI checks have been conducted during their annual licensing inspection. For more information concerning the Sex Offender Registry Board, and SORI information and policies available to the public, visit the SORB website at [www.mass.gov/sorb](http://www.mass.gov/sorb).

### **HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT SUCH BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED?**

You can request a copy of the camp's written policy on staff background checks from the camp director and ask the Board of Health to confirm that background checks were completed at the camp. Please note, however, that you are not authorized to review any staff person's actual CORI or SORI report.

### **IS THE CAMP REQUIRED TO HAVE A PERSON ON-SITE WHO KNOWS FIRST AID AND CPR?**

Yes. All licensed camps are required to have a health care supervisor at the camp at all times who is at least 18 years of age and is currently certified in first aid and CPR. The camp must provide backup for the health care supervisor from a Massachusetts licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner who serves as a health care consultant. Medical specialty camps and residential camps where there are a large number of campers and staff must have a licensed health care provider, such as a physician or nurse, on site.

### **HOW CAN I COORDINATE MY CHILD'S MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION WHILE AT A RECREATIONAL CAMP?**

Parents or guardians must give approval for their child to receive any medication at a recreational camp. Licensed camps are required to keep all medications in their original containers and to store all prescription medications in a secure manner. If your child will be participating in off-site activities while taking prescription medication, a second original pharmacy container must be provided to the camp. The only individual authorized to give your child his/her medication is a licensed health care professional or the camp health care supervisor with oversight by the camp health care consultant. (Note that other

arrangements may be made for emergency medications such as epinephrine auto-injectors and inhalers.) When your child's participation at a camp ends, the medication must be returned to you, if possible, or destroyed.

### **CAN A CAMP DISCIPLINE MY CHILD?**

Yes. Camps are required to have a written disciplinary policy that explains their methods of appropriate discipline, for example, a 'time-out' from activities or sending a child to the camp director's office. Under no circumstances, however, may a camper be subjected to corporal punishment such as spanking, be punished by withholding food or water, or subject to verbal abuse or humiliation.

### **WHAT STEPS DOES A CAMP HAVE TO TAKE TO PROTECT MY CHILD FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT?**

All licensed recreational camps must have policies and procedures in place to protect campers from abuse and neglect while at camp. You may ask a camp representative for specific information on the camp's policies and procedures for reporting a suspected incident. In order to protect your child from possible abuse, you should talk openly and frequently with your child about how to stay safe around adults and other children.

### **WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO HELP PROTECT CHILDREN FROM MOSQUITO AND TICKBORNE DISEASE SUCH AS EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS (EEE), WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV), AND LYME DISEASE?**

Parents/guardians and camp administrators should discuss the need for repellent with campers and what repellent(s) may be available at the camp. Use of insect repellents that contain 30% or lower of DEET (N,Ndiethyl-m-toluamide) are widely available and are generally considered to be safe and effective for children (older than 2 months of age) when used as directed and certain precautions are observed. These products should be applied based on the amount of time the camper spends outdoors and the length of time protection is expected as specified on the product label.

Use of DEET products that combine repellent with sunscreen are not recommended, as over application of DEET can occur if sunscreens need to be applied more frequently. It is generally recommended to apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent.

Repellents containing DEET should only be applied to exposed skin, and children should

