



On March 22, 2020, DCF Secretary Chad Poppell signed an Emergency Order that included training information:

“Suspend section 402.305(2)(e), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of promoting flexibility and allowing for alternative educations and testing methods for child care personnel where COVID-19 has prevented access to same.”

The purpose of this is EO is to allow a six-month extension for the completion of competency exams, as these are primarily conducted at our local colleges, which have been closed. Therefore, students that need to take the competency exams, will have until Sept. 21, 2020, to complete their testing.

This also means that the Training Coordinating Agencies and High Schools will be able to offer the child care courses online, while still meeting the requirement of instructor led through virtual teaching.

The Office of Child Care Regulation has “opened the time-frame window” to allow for completion of online courses beyond the 45-day requirement. For those students who enrolled in an online class as of Jan. 28, 2020, and later, will be allowed additional time to complete the course. The course will also be left open so that the student can go back and refresh themselves prior to taking the competency exam.