Allowable Number of Children in Certified Care

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CERTIFIED CHILD CARE			
Related or Operator's Own Children Under 7 Years of Age	Non-related Children Under 7 years of age	Additional Children Ages 7 and older	Maximum Number of Children*
0	3	Includes non-related children age 7+ and related, nonresidential children age 7+.	6
1	3		6
2	3		6
3	3		6
4	2		6
5	1		6
6	0		6

WHEN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 2 YEARS ARE PRESENT	
Number of Children Under 2 Years of Age	Maximum Number of Children*
0	6
1	6
2	6
3	5
4	4

*The maximum number does not include the certified child care operator's natural, adopted, step or foster children 7 years of age and older or any children age 7 and older who live in the residence.

DCF 202.02(12m) "Operator's own children" means a certified family child care operator's natural, adopted, step, and foster children, and any children who reside in the operator's home.

The state law, s. 48.65 (1), Stats., states: If a child care provider cares for 4 or more children under the age of 7 who are not related to the provider, for compensation, the provider must obtain from the Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Care and Regulation a license to operate a child care center. This means that if a certification applicant is caring for 4 or more unrelated children under age 7, the agency does not have the authority to approve the application for certification because s/he is violating the licensing law. The applicant must comply with certification standards DCF 202 before certification may be granted.