



# The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida

contracts with:

## Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc.

to provide services for families enrolling children in early learning



[www.4cflorida.org](http://www.4cflorida.org)

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Dear Parents:

This letter is to inform you of upcoming changes that may affect your services.

In December 2009, the government of Puerto Rico enacted a new law (Law 191 of 2009) aimed at strengthening the issuance and usage of birth certificates to combat fraud and protect the identity and credit of all people born in Puerto Rico. The new law was based on collaboration with the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to address the fraudulent use of Puerto Rico-issued birth certificates to unlawfully obtain U.S. passports, Social Security benefits, and other federal services.

➤ **Law 191, which went into effect on January 1, 2010, implements the following changes:**

1) On July 1, 2010, the law will invalidate all birth certificates issued before that date by the Puerto Rico Health Department, through its Vital Statistics Record Office. Until that date, all birth certificates will remain valid.

2) On July 1, 2010, the Vital Statistics Record Office will begin issuing new birth certificates incorporating technology to limit the possibility of document forgery. The law provides that the date of validity for the current birth certificates may be extended by the Puerto Rico Health Department if the new birth certificates are not ready to be issued on July 1, 2010. Public notice of such an extension will be provided.

➤ **How do obtain a copy of the new, more secure birth certificate if I live outside of Puerto Rico?**

A: Citizens born in Puerto Rico but residing elsewhere may obtain a copy of the **new** birth certificate by filling out a Birth Certificate Application form from the Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Record office **on or after July 1, 2010**.

Application forms can be obtained at:

<http://www.salud.gov.pr/Programas/RegistroDemografico/Pages/RequisitosparasolicituddeNacimiento.aspx>

This is the General link PR Department of Health:

<http://www.salud.gov.pr/Programas/RegistroDemografico/Pages/InformacionsobrenuevosCertificadosdeNacimiento.aspx>

This is the Specific link on PR Birth Certificates Department of Health Spanish:

<http://www.salud.gov.pr/Programas/RegistroDemografico/Pages/NuevosCertificadosdeNacimiento-Español.aspx>

This is the Specific link on PR Birth Certificates Department of Health English:

<http://www.salud.gov.pr/Programas/RegistroDemografico/Pages/NuevosCertificadosdeNacimiento-English.aspx>

For additional information, please call (787) 767-9120. The Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Record Office's hours of operation for Monday through Thursday are from 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Puerto Rico Time); Fridays from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Puerto Rico Time); and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Puerto Rico Time).