

Lisa Thompson, Ombuds for Family Child Care Providers



Background

Thompson was named ombuds by Governor Tim Walz and started in the position in July. She came to this role with the experience of running her licensed family child care business for 25 years and facilitating training for other educators. Prior to opening her child care program, she worked in various early education settings as a licensed teacher. She completed a master's program in advocacy and political leadership and worked at a nonprofit organization helping new child care businesses get started on strong footing.

Describe the work you do

[The Ombuds for Family Child Care Providers](#) was created by the Legislature last year to advocate with and on behalf of family child care providers regarding license monitoring activities, licensing actions and other interactions with state, tribal and county licensing staff. My first 90 days have focused on creating a solid foundation for this new ombuds office. As the ombudsperson, my responsibility is to advocate on behalf of family child care providers regarding licensing, compliance issues and other areas of concern.

In the coming months, a new website will launch with information about the OFCCP, guides for responding to correction orders and negative actions, and other helpful resources. Once the site is live, you will also find a form for submitting complaints, suggestions and compliments about the issues that affect your business.

What attracted you to the ombuds position?

Family child care providers have long banded together in local associations and other groups to help each other navigate licensing and other government systems. Family child care providers are educators, caregivers, business owners and so much more. Now, with the creation of this office, they have a reliable, independent resource to help them keep their businesses operating, support families while they work, and nurture the growing minds of Minnesota's youngest learners. It is an honor to lead this effort.

What do you hope to accomplish in this office?

My hope for this new office is to bring a new level of support for family child care providers. Transparency and fairness are central to my work. My focus is on amplifying the voices of those less heard and equipping the people who care for our children with the tools to effectively navigate the child care licensing and early childhood educating systems.

Contact Info

Email: ombuds.fccp@state.mn.us

Phone: 612-322-2241

If you would like to talk to me and need an interpreter, one will be provided.

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