### HEALTH

## PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES BRANCH

# DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

## YOUTH CAMP SAFETY PROGRAM

## NEW JERSEY YOUTH CAMP SAFETY STANDARDS

Adopted Readoption with Amendments: N.J.A.C. 8:25

## Adopted Repeals and New Rules: N.J.A.C. 8:25 Appendices A through D

Proposed: February 20, 2024 at 56 N.J.R. 233(a).

Adopted: , 2024, by Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc, DFASAM, Commissioner,

Department of Health, in consultation with the Public Health Council.

Filed: , 2024, as R. 2024, d. , with proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 8:25-

1.2(a), 1.4 (definitions of "applicant," "criminal history record check," and "youth camp

operator"), 2.1, 2.2(c)ii, and 3.2 not adopted but still pending.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 26:12-1 et seq.

Effective Date: , 2024, Readoption;

, 2024, Amendments, Repeals, and New Rules.

Expiration Date: , 2031.

### Summary of Public Comments and Agency Responses:

The official comment period ended April 20, 2024. The following is a summary of

the comments received from members of the public and the Department's responses.

The Department received comments from the following 280 individuals, organizations,

and individuals on behalf of their respective organizations:

### 1. Jeff Lake Camp

The official versions of any departmental rulemaking activity (notices of proposal or adoption) are published in the *New Jersey Register* and/or the *New Jersey Administrative Code*. Should there be any discrepancies between this document and the official version of the proposal or adoption, the official version will govern.

- 2. Fernbrook Farms Summer Camps
- 3. Aaron Crandall, Simpliverified LLC
- 4. Aashna Choudhary, Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey
- 5. Adam Baranker, Jeff Lake Camp
- 6. Adar Darnov, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 7. Adena Feinstein, JCC Camp Ruach
- 8. Alanna Steinberg, JCC Camp Ruach
- 9. Alec Morano
- 10. Alejandro Martinez, Lakeland Hills Family YMCA
- 11. Alessa Laraia
- 12. Alison Deeney, Sparta Recreation
- 13. Alma Dhuyvetter, Metro Y of the Oranges
- 14. Althea Ford, New Jersey Business and Industry Association
- 15. Amanda Kelly, Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ
- 16. Amy Gophses, GSCSNJ
- 17. Amy Steinberg, JCC Camp Ruach
- 18. Amy Weinstein, JCC Camp Ruach
- 19. Andrew Pritikin, Liberty Lake Day Camp, American Camp Association, Burlington County Chamber of Commerce, NJ Camps, Camp Owners & Directors Association
- 20. Andrew Yankowitz, Tall Pines Day Camp
- 21. Andy Sun, JCC Camp Ruach
- 22. Anna Kats, Princeton-Blairstown Center
- 23. Anne Hatos, JCC Camp Ruach

- 24. Antinica Armstrong, East Orange YMCA
- 25. Ashley Schmitz, KE Camps
- 26. Assaf Langer, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 27. Aviv Wagner, JCC Camp Ruach
- 28. Barbara Cruz, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 29. Barbara Spevak, Tall Pines Day Camp
- 30. Beau Byrtus, New Jersey Recreation and Park Association
- 31. Ben Clawson, Rutgers University/ New Jersey 4-H Camp
- 32. Bill Sanfilippo, Metropolitan YMCA of the Oranges
- 33. Bob Kilmurray, Metro YMCA of the Oranges
- 34. Brian Vandongen, Borough of Sayreville
- 35. Bruce Skversky, Girl Scouts of Central & Southern, NJ
- 36. Callie Rommel, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 37. Carla Scarabino, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 38. Carol Sacca, JCC Camp Ruach
- 39. Carrie Springer, Somerset County Park Commission
- 40. Caryn Kenin, JCC Camp Ruach
- 41. Caylei Hoffman, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 42. Charisse Taylor, Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey
- 43. Charles Maltzman, Willow Lake Day Camp
- 44. Cheryl Tuturice, Metro YMCA of the Oranges
- 45. Cheryl Westeyn, Borough of Fort Lee
- 46. Christina Messner, JCC Camp Ruach

- 47. Christopher Gabriel, Country Roads Day Camp
- 48. Christopher Myers, Township of Millburn / New Jersey Recreation & Park Association
- 49. Christopher Purdue, ACA: American Camping Association & NJ CAMPS
- 50. Christopher Raphel, JCC Camp Ruach
- 51. Chrystina Kepreos, Metro Y of the Oranges Sussex County YMCA
- 52. Cindy Elgrably, JCC Camp Ruach
- 53. Colby Marques, Department of Recreation and Parks, Colts Neck Township
- 54. Colin Nilson
- 55. Corey Brown, Metro YMCA of the Oranges Sussex County YMCA
- 56. Crystal Water, JCC Camp Ruach
- 57. Dan Hayes, Somerset County Park Commission
- 58. Danielle Abreu, Greater Bergen County YMCA
- 59. David White, JCC Camp Ruach
- 60. Dawn Thompson, New Jersey Recreation & Park Association
- 61. Debbie Golden, JCC Camp Ruach
- 62. Debbie Oliver, NJRPA
- 63. Dena Mayo, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 64. Denise Lanza, NJRPA
- 65. Edith Lynch, Sussex County YMCA
- 66. Edward Philipp
- 67. Elisa Bowser, SSBJCC
- 68. Ellen Mccloskey, JCC Camp Ruach

- 69. Ellie Willoughby, JCC Camp Ruach
- 70. Emily Fisher, Sparta Parks and Recreation Sparta Township, NJ
- 71. Emily Kagan, Jeff Lake Camp
- 72. Emily Rearer, Fairview Lake YMCA Camps
- 73. Eric Appelbaum, Girl Scouts
- 74. Erica Waldman, JCC Camp Ruach
- 75. Erick Koenig, Metro YMCA of the Oranges
- 76. Faith Appelbaum, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 77. Fernando Perez, NJ Camps and American Camp Association, New York and New Jersey
- 78. Francine Egnezzo, West Essex YMCA
- 79. Frank Marshall, NJ State League of Municipalities
- 80. Gabriel Dimasi, West Caldwell
- 81. Gabrielle Bolarakis, The Township of Readington
- 82. Gary Maser, Pine Grove Day Camp
- 83. Gayle Dettlinger, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 84. Genevieve Hill, Girl Scouts of Central & Southern New Jersey/The Girl Scouts of New Jersey
- 85. Glendon Carper, Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center
- 86. Greg Keresztury, YMCA of the Pines
- 87. Griffin Dunne, Hillsborough Township Parks & Recreation
- 88. Ian Burke
- 89. Ian Feibelman, Black Bear Lake Day Camp

- 90. Ilyse Hahn, Eagle's Landing Day Camp
- 91. Iris Brown
- 92. Jacob Weissman, Willow Lake Day Camp
- 93. Jacqueline Leduc-Garbe, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 94. Jake Hinerman, JCC Camp Ruach
- 95. Jake Weissman, Willow Lake Day Camp
- 96. James Goodger, Metropolitan YMCA of the Oranges
- 97. Jamie Secula, Tall Pines Day Camp
- 98. Jane Gaffin
- 99. Janice Grasso, New Jersey Recreation & Parks Association
- 100. Janice Reese-Berardo, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 101. Jared Kaufrman, JCC Camps at Medford
- 102. Jason Kelly, Greater Bergen County YMCA
- 103. Jay Lastra, West Essex YMCA
- 104. Jeanne Montemarano, NJRPA President/ Sparta Twp. Parks and Recreation Director
- 105. Jeffrey Bershad, NJ Camps
- 106. Jennifer Donahue, Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA
- 107. Jennifer Gander, New Jersey Recreation & Park Association
- 108. Jennifer Griffin, Fairview Lake YMCA
- 109. Jennifer Holmes, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 110. Jennifer Macafee, Metro YMCA's of the Oranges
- 111. Jessica Goretski, Pine Grove Day Camp

- 112. Jessica Kichura, JCC Camp Ruach
- 113. Jessica Malas, Wayne YMCA
- 114. Jill Arzonico, Jeff Lake Camp
- 115. Jillian Oliastro, Girl Scouts of Central & Southern, NJ
- 116. Jinny Strawderman, JCC Camp Ruach
- 117. Joan Basilotto, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 118. Joanne Browne, American Camping Association
- 119. Joe Marrolli, Princeton Recreation Department
- 120. Joel Blender, New Horizons Day Camp
- 121. John Martin, East Orange YMCA
- 122. John Odell, New Horizons Day Camp
- 123. John Roche, New Jersey Recreation & Parks Association (NJRPA)
- 124. John Ryan, NJRPA
- 125. John Yousset, JCC Camp Ruach
- 126. Jonathan Gold, Oak Crest Day Camp
- 127. Joseph Curci, Country Roads Day Camp
- 128. Joseph Marrolli, Municipality of Princeton
- 129. Joseph Passaro, Township of Warren
- 130. Joseph Plescia, Twp of Parsippany / NJRPA
- 131. Julia Rigatti, JCC Camp Ruach
- 132. Julie Gallanty, NJ YMCA State Alliance
- 133. Justin Beaumont, Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center
- 134. Justin Efros, Jeff Lake Camp

- 135. Justin Hirsch, Eagle's Landing Day Camp
- 136. Kate Grenci, Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey
- 137. Katelyn Johnston, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 138. Katherine Cawley, New Horizons Day camp
- 139. Kathy Jones, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 140. Katie Frey, Rdgewood Parks and Recreation
- 141. Katie Loane-Secrest, Camp Dark Waters
- 142. Katrina Gabriel, Country Roads Day Camp
- 143. Kelly Mchugh, Summit Area YMCA
- 144. Ken Kaus, JCC Camp Ruach
- 145. Ken Riscinti, Metro YMCA of the Oranges
- 146. Keri Kenavey, Eagle's Landing Day Camp
- 147. Kerry Klug, NJRPA
- 148. Kim Crump, Willow Lake Day Camp
- 149. Kristina Kassick, JCC Camp Ruach
- 150. Kylie Breisch, JCC Camp Ruach
- 151. Laci Holmes, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 152. Lakiesha Jackson, JCC Camp Ruach
- 153. Laura Friedman, JCC Camp Ruach
- 154. Laura Toth, Wyckoff Family YMCA
- 155. Lauren Colon, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 156. Lauren Paniccia, JCC Camp Ruach
- 157. Lauren Redmond, Camp Briar Hill

- 158. Laurie Ann Weinstein
- 159. Laurie Goganzer, YMCA of Greater Monmouth County
- 160. Leah Greene, East Orange YMCA
- 161. Lia Pila, Fairview Lake YMCA
- 162. Libny Sanchez, Robbinsville
- 163. Lily Wong, International Ivy LLC
- 164. Linda Tiner, JCC Camp Ruach
- 165. Lindsay Robertson, Morris County Park Commission Recreation
- 166. Lisa Cordeiro Kricun, Girl Scouts of Central and Southern NJ
- 167. Lou Halasz, JCC Camp Ruach
- 168. Luis Guerra, Metro YMCA of the Oranges
- 169. Mallory Milhisler, New Horizons Day Camp
- 170. Marc Koch, Fairview Lake YMCA, a branch of Metropolitan YMCAs of the Oranges
- 171. Marilyn Klein, JCC Camp Ruach
- 172. Mark Dibble, YMCA of the Pines
- 173. Mark Lynn, Camp Briar Hill
- 174. Mark Monteyne, Totowa Borough Board of Recreation
- 175. Marta Acosta, JCC Camp Ruach
- 176. Marty Collett, Westfield Area YMCA
- 177. Mary Gresco, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 178. Mason Goldberg, Meadowbrook Country Day Camp
- 179. Matthew Lifschultz, Metro YMCA of the Oranges
- 180. Megan Purdue, NJEA

- 181. Megan Schaffer, NJRPA
- 182. Meghan Tavormina, New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children
- 183. Melynda A. Disla, the Gateway Family YMCA
- 184. Melissa Lorincz, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 185. Melissa Mulvaney, JCC Camp Ruach
- 186. Mercedes Rolandelli, River Edge Polo Farm LLC Riding Camp
- 187. Micah Lynn, Camp Briar Hill
- 188. Michael Bright, YMCA of Newark and Vicinity
- 189. Michael Deloreto, Esq., Gibbons P.C. on behalf of NJ Camps, ACA NY & NJ
- 190. Michael Laughner, South Mountain YMCA
- 191. Michael Mckeown, Harbor Hills Day Camp
- 192. Michael Mckeown, Harbor Hills Day Camp
- 193. Michael Reissner, East Brunswick Recreation & Parks
- 194. Michael Reissner, East Brunswick Recreation & Parks
- 195. Michael Wynne, New Horizons Day Camp
- 196. Michelle Kessler, Not Applicable
- 197. Mickey Bonett, NJ-Camps.com
- 198. Mindy Pearlman
- 199. Mitchell Kessler
- 200. Mona Cholowinski, New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association (formally Manalapan Township Parks and Recreation)
- 201. Monica Bason Lynch, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 202. Nancy Casey, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore

- 203. Oded Kraus, JCC Camps at Medford
- 204. Paige Silberfein, JCC Camp Ruach
- 205. Pam Gregory, Princeton-Blairstown Center
- 206. Pamela Parker, JCC Camps at Medford
- 207. Patricia Carone-Curtis, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 208. Patricia Karl, Princeton-Blairstown Center
- 209. Patricia Tammaro, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 210. Patrick Linfors, Garden State Council, BSA
- 211. Patti Conroy, NJRPA
- 212. Paul Breene, Camp Riverbend
- 213. Penny Shank, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 214. Rachel Jaffe, Willow Lake Day Camp
- 215. Rajni Chopra
- 216. Ray Gaffney, Metro YMCA of the Oranges Sussex County YMCA
- 217. Richard Campbell, Happiness Is Camping
- 218. Richard Sherer, Meadowbrook Day Camp
- 219. Robbin Mcgeady, JCC Camp Ruach
- 220. Robert Bubadias, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 221. Robert Wagner, Hillsborough Township
- 222. Robert Wojciechowski, JCC Camp Ruach
- 223. Robert Young, Black Bear Lake Day Camp
- 224. Roger Breene, Camp Riverbend
- 225. Ronnie Marmo, NJ-Camps.com

- 226. Roxie Zeek, Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey
- 227. Russell Surace, Bernards Township
- 228. Ruth Weiss, Eagle's Landing Day Camp
- 229. Ryan Cox, Morris County Park Commission
- 230. Ryan Horne, Township of Lacey/ New Jersey Recreation and Park Association
- 231. Sabeen Kalyan-Masih, Girl Scouts of NJ
- 232. Sadie Coords, Briar Hill School and Camp
- 233. Samantha Dawson, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 234. Sandra Kenoff, Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey
- 235. Sara Holtz, NJ-Camps.com
- 236. Sara Sideman, American Camp Association
- 237. Scott Rothschild, NJ Camps and American Camp Association, New York and New Jersey
- 238. Seth Blender, New Horizons Day Camp
- 239. Shamida Marc, Metropolitan YMCA of the Oranges
- 240. Shanna Gryder, NJ 4-H Camp
- 241. Shannon Cornine, Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey
- 242. Shannon Frank, The Metro YMCA of the Oranges
- 243. Shannon Maida, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 244. Shari Goldberg, JCC Camps at Medford
- 245. Sharon Eber, NJ Camps and American Camp Association, New York and New Jersey
- 246. Sharon Mcqueen, Country Roads Day Camp

- 247. Sheryl Feinstein
- 248. Shira Gladstone, JCC Camp Yachad
- 249. Shira Sklar
- 250. Siobhan Riggsbee, Willow Lake Day Camp
- 251. South YMCA, South Mountain YMCA
- 252. Stacey Lastella, YMCA of Greater Monmouth County
- 253. Stacey Staaterman Feeney, West Essex YMCA
- 254. Stacy Petti, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 255. Stephanie Smida, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 256. Stephen Persche, Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ (GSCSNJ)
- 257. Steve Mcnally, JCC Camp Ruach
- 258. Sue Rynar, Jeff Lake Camp
- 259. Susan Bond-Masterson, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 260. Susan Goldman, NJ-Camps.com
- 261. Susan Pontoriero, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 262. Tammy Verderber, Borough of Florham Park
- 263. Tara Campistrous, Garfield YMCA
- 264. Tatum Stout, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore
- 265. Teresa Montini, Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ, Inc.
- 266. Theresa Quercia
- 267. Thomas M Frank, Colts Neck Health Department
- 268. Tim Roetman, NJRPA, Director of Parks & Recreation
- 269. Tina Driscoll, Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ

#### 270. Township of Sparta

271. Tyler Nivison, Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp

272. Veronica Laureigh, Township of Lacey

273. Victoria Powers, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore

274. Washima Redding, Metro YMCA of the Oranges-East Orange YMCA Branch

275. Wayne Holmes, Greater Somerset County YMCA

276. Wendi Sue Grisanti, Pine Grove Day Camp

277. Wendy Saiff, Willow Lake Day Camp

- 278. William Foelsch, Township of Morris
- 279. Yaniv Hamdi, Camps
- 280. Zugelis Garcia, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore

1. COMMENT: A number of commenters stated that the definition of "High risk activity" at proposed N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.4 is too broad and in need of clarification. Many of the comments generally question why off-site field trips, field sports, and aquatics are considered high risk activities. The comments suggest that because the term "high risk activity" is subject to interpretation, and because the Department does not list every possible high risk activity, that the regulated community is unable to determine from the rules which activities are high risk. (30, 34, 39, 45, 53, 57, 60, 64, 79, 80, 81, 87, 107, 123, 128, 129, 139, 174, 210, 220, 267, 269). Five commenters stated that singing is not a high risk activity. (34, 60, 107, 174, 269).

RESPONSE: The Department disagrees that the definition of "High risk activity" at proposed N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.4 is too broad and in need of clarification. The Department proposed to readopt the existing definition of "High risk activity" with only minor

amendments because the definition has been working well from a regulatory perspective. The definition requires that in order to be high risk, the activity must expose the camper to a life-threatening or serious injury and the activity must require a high level of adult supervision at all times. Rather than attempting to list each possible high risk activity, which are voluminous, the definition is straightforward, plain language that sets forth a two-prong test for determining when an activity is high risk and provides examples of same. Field sports meet this definition because there is a risk of a lifethreatening or serious injury from engaging in the sport, necessitating a high level of adult supervision. Aquatic activities come with the risk of drowning, also necessitating a high level of adult supervision. The Department agrees that off-site field trips are not a good example of a high risk activity and should therefore not be listed as an example of one. The Department notes that it proposed to readopt existing paragraph 2 from the definition, which provides that the Department may determine whether any recreational component, sport or activity of a youth camp is a high risk activity based on a Departmental review of the components of the activity, which would help eliminate guestions over whether certain activities are high risk. Singing is not listed as a high risk activity in the definition at N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.4. However, because singing can contribute to the spread of respiratory diseases, the Application for Certificate of Approval to Operate a Youth Camp at proposed Appendix A asks whether singing is an activity at the camp to provide the Department with situational awareness during times when respiratory diseases are circulating in the State. For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department adopts the definition of "High risk activity" as proposed, except that the Department does not adopt "off-site field trips" as an example of a high risk activity.

2. COMMENT: Several commenters stated that it was too expensive to hire a physician or nurse to serve as the camp's health director. (39, 45, 57, 64, 87, 199, 220). One commenter stated that it was difficult to fund "medical teams." (45)

RESPONSE: There is nothing in the proposed readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules that requires youth camps to hire a physician, nurse, or "medical team." Pursuant to existing N.J.A.C. 8:25-5.2, resident youth camps are required to have a "health director" on duty at all times. This person must be an adult. This person may be a physician or a nurse, but this person may also be an individual who is certified in advanced first aid, a paramedic or emergency medical technician, or a first responder/CIM accredited by a certification agency recognized by the Department as listed in Appendix D. Pursuant to existing N.J.A.C. 8:25-5.2(b), day youth camps are required to have a health director who is an adult and certified by the American Red Cross in Standard First Aid or its equivalent as approved by the Department as listed at Appendix D.

3. COMMENT: Four commenters stated that the Department did not adequately engage stakeholders in the preparation of this rule proposal. (60, 70, 173, 275)

RESPONSE: The Department disagrees with the comments. The Department held stakeholder meetings on several occasions for two years prior to publishing the rule proposal. Stakeholder meetings with the regulated community were open and well known. The Department communicated with stakeholders from the American Camp Association (ACA), the New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association (NJRPA), the New Jersey Environmental Health Association (NJEHA), and intergovernmental discussions were conducted with the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS)-Division of Family Development (DFD). On December 23, 2021, the proposed revisions were discussed with stakeholders of the ACA, a nationally recognized nonprofit organization for camp owners, camp professionals and others interested in summer camp programs. Similarly, in March of 2022, stakeholder meetings were held during an industry conference hosted by NJRPA and NJEHA. The NJEHA's annual conference is attended by local health officials statewide, and the NJRPA's recreational bathing meeting is attended by both regulatory and private industry representatives. Lastly, intergovernmental communication with the DFD and New Jersey Motor Vehicles Commission - School Bus Inspection Unit were held off and on over the course of 2021 and 2022. The Department notes that all four commenters exercised their right to comment on the rule proposal, and the Department has considered all of their comments and responded to each of them.

4. COMMENT: Five commenters stated that camps that are only a one week in duration should not fall under the scope of this chapter. (60, 132, 173, 210, 267). One commenter stated that a camp with only 5 campers should not fall under the scope of this chapter. (84)

RESPONSE: The Department disagrees with the comments. Youth camps are defined by statute at N.J.S.A. 26:12-3. The statutory definition encompasses camps that accommodate 5 or more children for a period of, or portions of, 2 days or more. N.J.S.A. 26:12-6 provides that no youth camp shall be operated except by authority of a valid certificate of approval from the Department. The Department is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the New Jersey Youth Camp Safety Act, N.J.S.A. 26:12-1 et seq.

5. COMMENT: One commenter states that the list of approved trainings and providers at Appendix D is artificially limited. The comment goes on to suggest additional providers that the Department should consider listing. (86)

RESPONSE: The Department disagrees with the comment. The Department places no limit on the number of agencies who choose to provide information on their agency and curriculum for the Department to review and approve or disapprove.

6. COMMENT: Commenters 1 through 280 objected to the proposed definition of "Criminal history record check" at N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.4 and its proposed implementing provisions at N.J.A.C. 8:25-3.2(f), 3.2(j), and 3.2(k). The comments generally stated that fingerprint based criminal background checks would have a negative impact on the youth camp industry by making hiring more difficult and taking significantly more time to complete than the current name-check based criminal background checks while not significantly improving the safety of campers.

RESPONSE: The Department thanks the commenters for the recommendations, but the Department is not adopting the proposed definition of "Criminal history record check" at N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.4 and its proposed implementing provisions at N.J.A.C. 8:25-3.2(f), 3.2(j), and 3.2(k) at this time, while it determines how to proceed.

7. COMMENT: A significant number of commenters objected to the proposed changes to the definitions of "Applicant" and "Youth camp operator" at N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.4 and their proposed implementing provisions at N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.2(a) and 2.1. The comments generally stated that due to budget constraints and the short time before the youth camp season begins, including municipally operated camps within the scope of N.J.A.C. 8:25 would be very difficult to implement. Most comments recommended

delaying adoption of this part of the rule proposal. (34, 45, 48, 53, 60, 81, 83, 104, 107, 128, 129, 140, 173, 180, 199, 229, 266, 267, 272).

RESPONSE: The Department thanks the commenters for the recommendations, but the Department is not adopting the proposed definitions of "Applicant" and "Youth camp operator" at N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.4 and their proposed implementing provisions at N.J.A.C. 8:25-1.2(a) and 2.1. at this time, while it determines how to proceed.

#### **Federal Standards Statement**

The Department adopts this rulemaking under the authority of N.J.S.A. 26:12-1 et seq., particularly N.J.S.A. 26:12-5. A Federal standards analysis is not required because the adopted readoption with amendments, and the adopted repeals and new rules are not subject to any Federal requirements or standards.

**Full text** of the readopted rules can be found in the New Jersey Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 8:25.

**Full text** of the adopted amendments, repeals, and new rules follows (additions to proposal indicated in boldface with asterisks **\*thus**\*; deletions from proposal indicated in brackets with asterisks **\***[thus]\*):

#### SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

8:25-1.4 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

... (No change from proposal.)

"Applicant" means any \*[government entity,]\* private individual, partnership,

corporation, or other entity, whether for profit or nonprofit, who applies to the Department pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:25-2.2 for the purpose of requesting a certificate of approval to operate a youth camp.

... (No change from proposal.)

\*["Criminal history record check" or "fingerprint based criminal history record information (FBCHRI) check" means a fingerprint background check of a criminal history registry or repository conducted on an applicant who desires to serve in a role overseeing children without another staff person present in a youth camp setting.]\* ... (No change from proposal.)

• • •

"High risk activity" means any recreational component, sport or activity of a youth camp, which exposes a camper to a life-threatening or serious injury because of the inherent danger of the recreational component, sport or activity and which requires a high level of adult supervision at all times.

1. A high risk activity includes, but is not limited to, archery, swimming and other aquatic activities, horseback riding, riflery, rope courses, motorized vehicles, zip lining, \*[off-site field trips,]\* and rock climbing.

2. (No change.)

"Youth camp operator" means any \*[government entity,]\* private individual, agency, organization, or person, and any individual, who operates, controls, or supervises a youth camp, whether such camp is operated for profit or not-for-profit. SUBCHAPTER 2. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

8:25-2.2 Application for certificate of approval

(a) -(b) (No change from proposal.)

(c) The applicant shall submit a filing fee of \$ 50.00 for a day camp and \$ 100.00 for a resident camp.

1. The applicant shall make the fee payable to "Treasurer, State of New Jersey."

i. (No change from proposal.)

\*[ii. Government entities are exempt from paying licensure application fees.]\*

2. (No change from proposal.)