



In Search of Illegal Child Care Operations
-The Use of Social Media and the Internet

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Child Care Licensing



In September 2013, the state of Texas embarked upon a new mission, to actively search for illegal child care operations as part of its mission to reduce the risk to children in out of home. In this presentation we will discuss the importance of searching for illegal child care operations; providing education and assistance to providers; and the benefits and challenges that searching presents. We will also highlight how the use of social media and the internet has expanded our ability to find and track the elusive child care provider who continues to operate underground.

The Initiative:



- Investigate all reported allegations of illegal child care
- Investigate all reported allegations of abuse/neglect in illegal child care
- Actively search for illegal child care
- Assist providers in becoming regulated
- Education and Outreach

Texas Child Care Operations

- Licensed Child-Care Centers provide care at a location other than the residence of the director, owner or operator for seven or more children under 14 years old for less than 24 hours, but at least two hours a day, three or more days a week.
- Family Homes provide **regular care** in the caregiver's own home. No more than 12 children can be in care at any time, including children of the caregiver.
- Listed Child Care Homes provide **regular care** for compensation for three or fewer unrelated children, excluding children who are related to the caregiver. The care is provided in the caregivers own home.
- The law defines Regular Care as; at least four hours per day, three or more days a week, for three or more consecutive weeks or four hours a day for 40 or more days in a 12 month period.
- The law defines children who are related to the caregiver as; children who are the children, grandchildren, siblings, great-grandchildren, first cousins, nieces, or nephews of the caretakers, whether by affinity or consanguinity or as a result of a relationship created by a court decree.

Illegal Operation Stats

FY 2014
CCL investigated approximately 3500 reports of illegal child care

Approximately 44% of the child fatalities occurred in illegal operations

FY 2015
CCL investigated approximately ____ reports of illegal child care

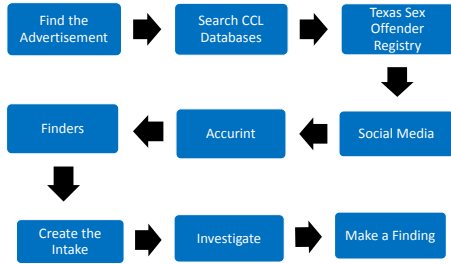
Approximately ___% of child fatalities occurred in illegal operations

FY 2015 Data Sept 1, 2014- August 31, 2015

Over 3600 Total Illegal Operations Intakes Received
Over 2500 Searches Conducted
Over 300 were determined High Risk
Over 13 Child Deaths

Approximate Community Outreach/Engagement - 350
Approximate # of People Reached-7200

The Searching Process



Finding the Advertisement

- Internet-Craigslist, Care.com, Facebook, Pinterest, Online Newspapers, Community Boards/HOA Websites, Classified ads, sitter.com, childcarecenter.us, city websites
- Laundry Mats
- Apartment Complexes
- Signs on the side of the road
- Newspapers/classified ads
- Flyers


FollowMe! craigslist Instagram Google f

Tattoo
for child
care

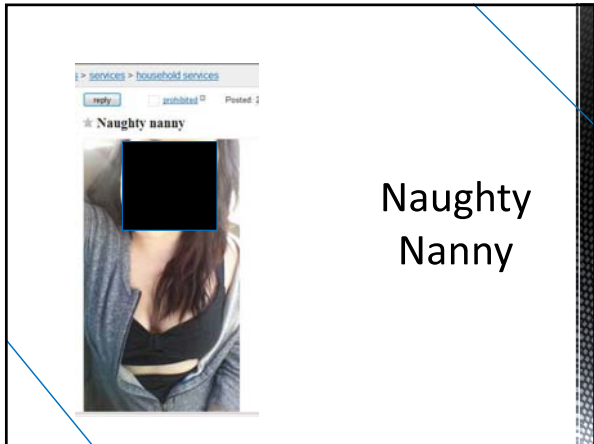


Free
Child
Care

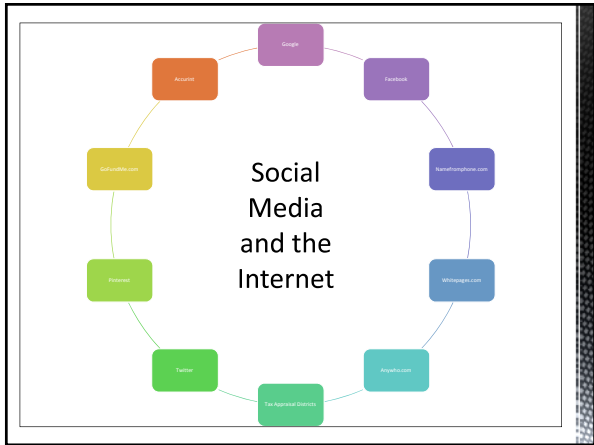




No
References



Naughty Nanny



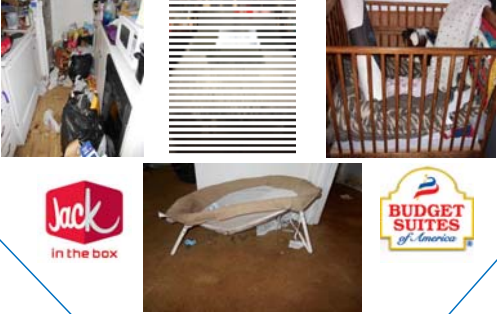
Social Media and the Internet

Legal Action and Challenges

L	• Access Order
E	• Temporary Restraining Order
G	• Temporary Injunction
A	• Permanent Injunction
L	• Contempt

C	• Access to online groups
H	• Geography
A	• Denied Access
L	• Law Enforcement
L	• Change of Location
E	• Educating Parents
N	• Legal Action
G	
E	
S	

Case Studies



Jack
in the box

BUDGET
SUITES
of America

Education and Outreach

- Hospitals, Clinics
- Community and Children's festivals
- Schools- counselors/nurses
- LC, EMS, Fire Departments
- District Attorneys and Judges
- Community Newspapers and Posting Boards
- Immunization Clinics
- Food Pantries, WIC, Food Stamps
- Apartment Complexes, Housing Authorities
- Workforce Commission
- Libraries

- Community Trainings/Presentations
- Meeting with parents/expecting parents
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Healthcare Professionals
- Community Resource Groups
- Internal Agencies

Success can be defined in many ways when it comes to Protecting our children in unregulated care. Sometimes it may be about educating the provider and offering guidance and support to help bring their operation into compliance. Other times, it may be about stopping a dangerous person or high risk situation from continuing to occur. Success can be providing caregivers and parents with tools and resources when it comes to the care and well-being of children. Sometimes not immediately measureable or visible, but continuing to 'plant those seeds' which can lead to positive changes in how children are cared for. Each of these successes our Generalists work towards everyday.

Success

Websites

www.dontbeinthedark.org

www.txchildcaresearch.org

Thank you for attending our presentation.

Denetra Adams
Heather Myrick

