



Coalition for the Protection of Children

## ADVICE TO PARENTS IN SELECTING A SUMMER CAMP

Many people are unaware that there are NO formal requirements for the operation of summer camps. It is, therefore, up to parents to themselves check to be sure that the camp is safe and properly run.

The following is a checklist which parents can use:

- Camp operators should be at least 21 years of age and have a minimum of 2 years' experience working with children, be trained in CPR and have attended SCARS training
- Camp operator and adult supervisors must have a clean criminal record
- Support staff must be at least 16 years of age and are trained in First Aid/Child-minding (available with the Bermuda Red Cross)
- A maximum ratio of 10 children per supervisor for 5-8 year olds and 12 children per supervisor for 9-14 year olds should be maintained at all times.
- The location site should be free from any health or safety concerns and have sufficient shade to protect children from direct sun exposure. Indoor and outdoor space should be provided. Indoor space should be no smaller than 25 square feet per child.
- Adequate sanitary accommodations should be available including 1 flushing toilet and 1 wash basin for every 15 children.
- A fully stocked first aid box should be available at all times.
- Adequate food refrigeration (or storage away from heat) must be available.
- Sufficient drinking water should be available.
- Activities must be age appropriate.
- Swimming and other water activities should take place in designated areas at stated times. A ratio of 6 children per staff (for children over 5 years) should be maintained during swimming activities. Staff must be strong swimmers if they are supervising swimming activities.
- Camp supervisors should have access to transportation at all times in case of emergency. If children are being transported, the number of children must not exceed the number of age-appropriate, safe seats in the vehicle.