Frequently Asked Questions — Washington State Window Blind Pull Cords Law

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are meant to better explain the window blind cords law for child care providers and DEL licensing staff. DEL has heard that licensing staff may have different understandings of the window blind pull cords law. We want licensing practices to be the same all over the state so kids can be safe. The FAQ also helps explain a letter that DEL sent to all licensed providers in April. You can find that letter at: [Window Blind Letter to Child Care Providers (April 2008)].

What is the Window Blind Pull Cords Law?
Revised Code of Washington 43.215.360. This act is also known as the Jaclyn Frank Act.

Why was the law created?
The law came after a child in Washington died due to a window blind cord. The issue of window blind cords and child injury has been discussed around the nation.

What does the law say?
That providers cannot have window coverings in a licensed child care space that have:

- Pull cords that can form a loop, OR
- Inner cords that can form a loop

All child care providers who are licensed, or certified as meeting state minimum licensing standards, must follow this law.

What is an inner cord?
An inner cord is a string or cord that runs down the center or sides of the window coverings. They allow the window covering slats to open and close. In some cases these cords can form a loop and create a choking danger.

Where can I find the law?

What should my first step be when looking at my window coverings?
Check to see whether a loop can be formed from the cords.

If it does form a loop, what should I do?
Call your DEL licensor. They can work to support you in finding a solution to keep children safe. Also, see the links to Web sites under [Where can I find more information about window coverings?](#)

Can I send my licensor pictures of my window coverings to make it easier for him/her to see?
Absolutely! There are so many different types of window coverings and it can be hard to describe your coverings over the phone. Sending photos by e-mail or hard copy mail could give your licensor a better idea of your situation.

What are the possible solutions if my window covering cords form a loop?
- Fix the window coverings you have now so there are no cords that form a loop, OR
- Take the window coverings down.

(more)
How do you permanently fix coverings?
Make sure that the pull cords and inner cords cannot form a loop. A retrofit kit may be a solution.

What is a retrofit kit?
A retrofit kit can help fix pull cords that form a loop. It may allow you to keep using your existing window coverings, while taking away the threat of child injury. Your licensor can share information about these kits.

Does the retrofit kit solve the problem of pull cords that form a loop?
In many cases yes, but not all. There are many different types of window coverings. Each type of window covering and its cords must be looked at individually. Speak with your licensor or send pictures of your window coverings to him or her.

If my licensor visits my facility and decides there’s a problem with my window coverings, does this mean there will be a compliance agreement written?
Yes. By law, DEL licensors must check your window coverings to see if they can form any type of loop. If they can form a loop, then a compliance agreement will be written.

What will be written on the compliance agreement?
It will say what the problem with your window coverings is, and the solution that you and your licensor came up with together.

What if my licensor and I cannot come to an agreement on what should be done?
You can ask for a licensing supervisor to look at your coverings and work with you on a solution.

How do I get this supervisor review?
- Mark the box on the compliance agreement that says you want a supervisory review OR
- Give pictures of your window coverings to your licensor and ask them to review the pictures with a supervisor.

What will the supervisor look for in a review?
They will look at your window coverings and decide if they follow the law. If there is a problem, they will then try to help you come up with a solution to keep kids safe.

What is DEL doing to make sure the law is followed in the same way across the state?
We are communicating with both providers and licensors to make sure we apply the law the same everywhere and work with providers to keep kids safe.

Who do I contact for more information?
- Your DEL licensor OR
- DEL’s state office licensing quality unit: QRIS@del.wa.gov.

Where can I find more information about window coverings?
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Window Covering Cords Information Center
Window Covering Safety Council
http://windowcoverings.org/