

2026 EDITION

MAGNUSON LOW VOLTAGE WIRING

Minnesota Child Care Camera Readiness Guide

Understanding Minnesota's New Child Care Camera
Requirements

Effective July 1, 2026 · Minnesota Statute §142B.68

Camera Requirements

Recording Standards

Retention Rules

Readiness Assessment

Planning Guide

Common Mistakes

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This guide walks Minnesota licensed child care providers through the 2026 camera requirements in plain language — from understanding who the law applies to, through evaluating existing systems, and planning next steps.

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! HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Three types of information appear throughout: **Legal Requirements** (from the enacted statute), **Professional Recommendations** (commercial industry best practices), and **Planning Tips** (practical evaluation suggestions). Each is clearly labeled with a colored callout box.

**July 1
2026**

Effective Date

Six Months

If Applicable — After
Qualifying Trigger

28 day

Routine Retention
Minimum

720p

Min. Recording Resolution

Welcome

A note from the author

Hello,

If you're reading this guide, you've probably heard something about Minnesota's new child care camera requirements and are trying to determine what they actually mean for your facility.

I created this guide because I've spoken with child care owners and administrators who have received conflicting information. Much of that confusion comes from articles discussing earlier versions of the bill rather than the final law that was enacted.

My goal isn't to convince anyone to replace equipment they may not need. My goal is to explain what the law says, identify where it applies, separate legal requirements from professional recommendations, and help providers evaluate their existing systems before making expensive decisions.

Whether your center already has cameras or is simply planning ahead, I hope this guide gives you practical, easy-to-understand information that helps you move forward with confidence.

Thank you for taking the time to read it.

— **Bob Magnuson**

Owner, Magnuson Low Voltage Wiring

About This Guide

This guide is written for Minnesota licensed child care providers. It summarizes the final enacted law in plain language and combines three clearly identified types of information:

- **Legal Requirements** — Information summarized from the enacted statute and official state guidance.
- **Professional Recommendations** — Commercial security industry best practices.
- **Planning Tips** — Practical suggestions to help evaluate existing systems and prepare for future needs.

! IMPORTANT

This publication is educational and is **not legal advice**. Consult the official statute, DCYF guidance, or legal counsel for questions regarding legal compliance.

Who This Guide Is For

No previous security camera experience is required. Technical concepts are explained in plain English. This guide is intended for:

- Child Care Owners
- Executive & Center Directors
- Facility & Operations Managers
- Administrative Staff & Board Members

Why This Guide Was Created

Minnesota's new child care camera law has generated a great deal of discussion, but not all of the information circulating online reflects the final enacted statute. This guide was created to provide an accurate starting point for understanding the law, evaluating existing camera systems, and making informed planning decisions. In many cases, facilities may only need adjustments to storage, recorder settings, or camera placement rather than a complete replacement.

✓ KEY TAKEAWAY

Planning ahead gives your organization time to evaluate options, budget appropriately, and avoid making rushed technology decisions.

Executive Summary & Understanding the Law

Minnesota Statute §142B.68 — What it says and what it means for your facility

Minnesota's child care camera law became effective July 1, 2026. The law establishes video security camera requirements under specific licensing circumstances defined in Minnesota Statute §142B.68. **It does not automatically require every licensed child care center in Minnesota to install cameras on July 1, 2026.**

At a Glance

**July 1
2026**

Effective Date of the Law

Six Months

If Applicable — After
Qualifying Trigger

28 day

Routine Recording
Retention Minimum

720p / 15fps

Minimum Recording
Quality

Who Does the Law Apply To?

The statute is **not** a blanket camera mandate for every licensed child care provider. Applicability depends on the specific circumstances described in the law. Many providers may simply wish to understand the requirements now so they can evaluate their current systems and prepare if the law ever becomes applicable.

Compliance Timeline



JULY 1, 2026

Law Becomes Effective

Minnesota Statute §142B.68 takes effect. Not an automatic mandate for all providers.



IF APPLICABLE

Qualifying Maltreatment / Enforcement Trigger Occurs

The requirement applies when a licensed child care center is required to post a maltreatment investigation memorandum under the statute. DCYF has clarified that the requirement applies under limited circumstances related to maltreatment findings when accompanied by certain enforcement actions issued on or after July 1, 2026.



WITHIN SIX MONTHS

Provider Installs Compliant System

Provider generally has six months from the issuance/posting of the qualifying maltreatment investigation memorandum to comply.



ONGOING

Maintain Compliance

Provider maintains compliance for the period established by law.

Key Definitions

Continuous Recording

Recording without interruption during operating hours.

720p Resolution

Minimum recording resolution required where applicable (1280×720 pixels).

15 FPS

Minimum recording frame rate required where applicable (frames per second).

NVR

Network Video Recorder — stores recorded video from IP security cameras.

Retention Period

The amount of time recordings are preserved before being overwritten.

§142B.68

The specific Minnesota statute governing child care video recording requirements.

Myth vs. Fact

Common misunderstandings about Minnesota's child care camera law — clarified

Much of the information circulating online was written while the legislation was still being debated. This guide is based on the **final enacted statute** and official state guidance, not earlier draft proposals.

✘ Myth	✔ Fact
<p>MYTH Every licensed child care center must install cameras by July 1, 2026.</p>	<p>FACT The law applies under specific statutory circumstances — it is not a blanket mandate for all providers.</p>
<p>MYTH If cameras are required, the entire system must be replaced.</p>	<p>FACT Many existing commercial systems can be upgraded, adjusted, or improved without full replacement.</p>
<p>MYTH Cloud storage is required by the law.</p>	<p>FACT Many commercial systems use local NVR storage successfully. Cloud storage is not mandated.</p>
<p>MYTH Consumer Wi-Fi cameras (Arlo, Ring, Nest) are adequate for compliance.</p>	<p>FACT Consumer products are designed for residential use and may not meet commercial recording, storage, or management needs.</p>
<p>MYTH Articles I've read online describe the current law.</p>	<p>FACT Many articles describe earlier bill drafts. Always verify against the final enacted §142B.68.</p>

✔ KEY TAKEAWAY

The best first step is understanding what the law actually requires before making technology or budgeting decisions. Use this guide as your foundation, then verify against the official statute at revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/142B.68

Camera System Requirements

Placement · Recording Standards · Retention · Privacy

Camera Placement

LEGAL REQUIREMENT

If the statute applies, the center must have at least one video security camera in each room designated for infants or toddlers. Cameras must be positioned for maximum visibility. If one camera cannot view at least **80% of the room's square footage**, additional cameras are required.

If the law becomes applicable to your facility, camera placement is just as important as camera quality. The statute establishes coverage requirements for specified rooms. Proper placement can often reduce blind spots without increasing the total number of cameras.

PROFESSIONAL RECOMMENDATION

Evaluate existing camera angles before purchasing additional cameras. In many facilities, repositioning an existing camera provides better coverage than simply adding another device.

Recording Standards

Where applicable, systems must meet the following minimum recording standards:

Requirement	Standard	Purpose
Recording Mode	Continuous during operating hours	Ensures no coverage gaps
Date & Time	Accurate timestamp on all recordings	Supports accurate review of recordings
Resolution	Minimum 720p (1280×720)	Ensures usable image quality
Frame Rate	Minimum 15 frames per second	Captures fluid motion

Recording Retention

The statute establishes two distinct retention periods:

ROUTINE RECORDINGS

28 Days

Minimum retention period for standard daily recordings during operating hours.

INCIDENT RECORDINGS

6 Months

Minimum retention for recordings associated with reportable incidents.

PROFESSIONAL RECOMMENDATION

Verify your recorder has enough available storage before changing recording settings. Higher resolution and longer retention require significantly more storage capacity.

Existing Camera Systems

Many facilities already have professionally installed commercial camera systems. That does not automatically mean the system must be replaced. A professional assessment may determine that existing cameras, storage, or recording settings can be updated to better align with requirements.

PLANNING TIP

Before any purchasing decisions, locate your recorder's make and model number and check whether the manufacturer's storage expansion options are still available. Many systems accept additional hard drives.

Privacy Considerations

Camera systems should always respect privacy expectations. Areas where privacy is expected should not be monitored. Facilities should also establish internal policies describing who may access recorded video and under what circumstances.

! IMPORTANT — WRITTEN POLICY & SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS

If the statute applies, the center must also maintain a **written video security camera policy** and provide required notice to parents/legal guardians. The statute also requires **signage at each facility entrance** accessible to visitors.

✓ KEY TAKEAWAY

Evaluate what you already own before purchasing new equipment. An assessment of your existing system often identifies practical improvements that are less expensive than a full replacement.

Frequently Asked Questions

Plain-language answers to the questions providers ask most

Q Does this law automatically apply to every child care center?

No. The statute applies under specific circumstances defined by Minnesota law — it is not a blanket camera mandate for all licensed providers.

Q Do I need to replace my entire camera system?

Not necessarily. Many commercial systems can be upgraded or adjusted. A professional assessment typically reveals which components, if any, need to be changed.

Q Can existing cameras qualify?

Possibly. Existing commercial systems should be evaluated before replacement. In many cases the cameras are adequate but storage capacity or settings need adjustment.

Q Can consumer Wi-Fi cameras be used?

Consumer products are designed for residential use and may not provide the recording continuity, storage management, or reliability needed in a commercial environment.

Q Do I need cloud storage?

Not necessarily. Many commercial systems use local NVR storage successfully. Cloud storage is not mandated by the statute.

Q How long must recordings be retained?

Where applicable: routine recordings must be kept for at least **28 days**, and recordings associated with reportable incidents for at least **six months**.

Q Can parents watch live video?

The law does not require parent live viewing. Access to recordings should follow applicable law and the facility's internal access policy. The statute includes an exception allowing a center that already provided remote viewing for parents/legal guardians as of July 1, 2026 to continue doing so in the same manner.

Q How often should my system be tested?

Regularly — at minimum every six months. Verify recording is active, playback works, timestamps are accurate, and storage health is within normal ranges.

Common Mistakes & Camera Comparisons

What to avoid and how to evaluate your options

Common Mistakes to Avoid

IMPORTANT — AVOID THESE ERRORS

- Assuming every system must be replaced
- Buying residential cameras for a commercial facility
- Ignoring storage capacity before changing settings
- Not verifying that recording settings are active
- Failing to document equipment and admin passwords
- Waiting until the last minute to evaluate the system

Questions to Ask Before Purchasing

- Can my existing equipment be upgraded?
- How much recording storage is included?
- Can storage be expanded later?
- Who owns the recorded data?
- Is remote support available?
- What warranty is provided?
- Who services the system after installation?

Consumer vs. Commercial Camera Systems

Feature	Consumer / Residential	Commercial / Professional
Design Purpose	Home / personal use	Business / institutional use
Recording Continuity	Motion-triggered or cloud-only	Continuous local recording
Storage Control	Subscription-dependent, limited	On-site NVR, expandable
Retention Management	Limited; varies by plan	Configurable; 28+ day retention
Multi-Camera Reliability	Wi-Fi dependent, variable	Wired; enterprise reliability
Data Ownership	Often manufacturer-controlled	Local storage can provide greater facility control
Serviceability	Consumer replacement only	Professional local service available

✓ KEY TAKEAWAY

The best investment is understanding your existing system before purchasing new equipment. An informed assessment often saves money and results in better long-term performance.

Readiness Assessment & Planning

Evaluate your existing system before making any purchasing decisions

Use this assessment to better understand your current camera system. A "No" answer does not necessarily mean non-compliance — it simply identifies an area worth evaluating further.

System Readiness Checklist

Do you know the make and model of your recorder?

Do you know how many days of video your system stores?

Are all cameras producing clear, usable images?

Are camera timestamps accurate and synchronized?

Do you know who has administrative access?

Have you tested video playback within six months?

Are all camera locations documented in writing?

Are administrator passwords stored securely?

Is backup power provided for critical equipment?

Note: Backup power is a professional recommendation, not a statutory requirement under §142B.68.

Do you have a service company to call if it fails?

Decision Tree

Does your facility currently have cameras installed?

YES — YOU HAVE CAMERAS

Schedule a professional assessment of your existing system.

Do they meet your operational needs?

Yes → Continue monitoring; maintain the system regularly.

No → Plan targeted, prioritized improvements.

NO — NO CAMERAS YET

Develop a camera system plan before purchasing any equipment. Obtain a professional assessment first to ensure you purchase the right system for your specific facility layout.

Your Action Plan

A practical, phased approach to camera system readiness

Planning Your Next Steps

TODAY

- › Read this guide completely
- › Identify who manages your camera system
- › Locate your recorder; note the make and model

THIS MONTH

- › Review all camera coverage areas
- › Verify current storage capacity
- › Test recording playback from multiple dates
- › Confirm timestamp accuracy

IF IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

- › Obtain a professional assessment
- › Budget for targeted upgrades first
- › Prioritize the highest-priority items
- › Plan improvements across budget cycles

Budget Planning

Many organizations spread camera improvements over multiple budget cycles. Start by correcting the highest-priority items first. Existing commercial infrastructure can often be reused, helping reduce overall project costs.

! PROFESSIONAL RECOMMENDATION

Avoid replacing equipment solely because it is older. Evaluate its performance, recording quality, storage capacity, and reliability before deciding whether replacement is necessary. Age alone is not a disqualifier.

📅 PLANNING TIP

Common improvements that cost less than full replacement: storage drive upgrades, recorder replacement (while keeping existing cameras), firmware updates, and camera repositioning for better coverage.

✓ **KEY TAKEAWAY**

A documented assessment of your existing camera system provides a stronger foundation for future planning than making assumptions about what needs to be replaced.

Resources, References & Closing

Official sources · Free assessment offer · Contact information

Complimentary Camera System Assessment

An objective review of your existing camera system is available at no charge for Minnesota licensed child care providers. The assessment focuses entirely on understanding your existing equipment — not selling a replacement system.

Request Your Free Assessment

A no-pressure, objective evaluation of your existing system — designed to answer your questions and help you plan, not to sell equipment.

- ✓ Existing equipment review
- ✓ Camera placement evaluation
- ✓ Recording and storage review
- ✓ Identification of improvement opportunities
- ✓ Answers to your questions
- ✓ Budgetary guidance when requested



Scan to request your complimentary assessment
magnusonlowvoltage.com/free-estimate

Official References

Minnesota Statute §142B.68

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/142B.68>

Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

<https://dcyf.mn.gov>

Minnesota Revisor of Statutes

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov>

! DISCLAIMER

This guide is intended for educational purposes only. It summarizes publicly available information in plain language and should not be considered legal advice. Readers should consult the official statute, DCYF guidance, or legal counsel for questions regarding legal compliance.

Closing Message

Minnesota's child care camera requirements represent an important change for licensed providers. Whether your facility already has a professionally installed camera system or is beginning to evaluate future needs, understanding your existing system today can make future planning easier and more cost effective.

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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QUICK LINKS

Free Assessment magnusonlowvoltage.com/free-estimate

Statute revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/142B.68

DCYF dcyf.mn.gov



"Helping Minnesota child care providers understand today's requirements and prepare for tomorrow's needs."

— Magnuson Low Voltage Wiring

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