



Guidelines



The California Child Day Care Facilities Act is the law that governs state health, safety, and licensing requirements of all child care facilities, including family child care homes. The statute pertaining to the fire safety standards for “Large Family Day Care Homes” can be found in the Health & Safety Code 1597.46.

Overview of Large Family Child Care Homes:



Allowed in single-family homes, apartments, condos, townhouses, duplexes, and all other multi-family buildings.



Every Large Family Daycare Home shall have one or more carbon monoxide detectors in the home installed per manufactures specifications.



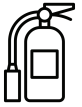
Single station smoke alarms shall be installed in every sleeping room and in the hallway, or area leading to the sleeping room. Additionally, there must be one smoke alarm in all areas used for day care purposes.



At least one manual fire alarm device shall be mounted between 3 ½ - 4 ½ feet above floor level, and within 5 feet of exit.

Fire alarm device shall actuate a signal which shall be audible throughout the facility at a minimum level of 15 dB above ambient noise level.

Fire alarm device shall be attached to the structure and may be of any type acceptable to the enforcing agency, provided that such devices are listed and approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.



2A10BC portable fire extinguisher shall be mounted and tagged where readily available, with the top between three and a half (3½) and five (5) feet above the floor.



Every story within the large family day-care home shall be provided with two exits that are remotely located from each other.



Children may be located above the first story when provided with a fire sprinkler system. Where any level other than the first story is used for day-care purposes, one of the two required exits for that level shall provide access directly to the exterior without entering the first story. The second exit may either pass through the first story or exit directly to the exterior.



Gas fired water heater or furnace shall be protected (inaccessible to children).



The Local Fire Department which has primary jurisdiction shall conduct a pre-inspection upon receipt of a request from a prospective licensee of a child day care home. A pre-inspection is not required, but is recommended to verify the home is acceptable as a Large Family Day Care Facility. A fee equal to but not exceeding the actual cost of the pre-inspection services may be charged for the pre-inspection of a facility.



The Local Fire Department shall provide consultation and interpretation of the state fire safety regulations, and shall notify the prospective licensee of the facility in writing of the specific fire safety regulations that are enforced to obtain fire safety inspection. The Fire Safety Inspection Request shall be completed within 30 days.