

City of Vista Fire Department

Development Services Section
200 Civic Center Drive, Vista CA 92084

Guideline:

Large Family Day-Care



Guideline G-11

Updated: December 12, 2005

Large Family Day Care

PURPOSE

It is the intent of this guideline to provide minimum requirements for large family day care homes within single family dwellings.

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all licensed large family day care homes within the jurisdiction of the Vista Fire Department. It is intended to provide children/persons in a Family Day Care Home the same environment that is provided in a traditional home setting.

A Large Family Day Care Home is a provider's own home licensed to provide family day care for 9 to 14 persons, including children under the age of 10 who reside in the home for periods of less than 24 hours per day. Large Family Day Care homes are classified as Group R-3 occupancies by the State Fire Marshal. The relevant code sections are: CFC 2008 Section 445 and Health and Safety Code Section 1597.46.

REQUIREMENTS

CONSTRUCTION

Single-family dwelling (R-3) construction requirements shall apply.

EXITS

Large Family Day Care Homes shall be provided with two (2) exits from each level. Every required exit door shall be capable of opening so that the clear width is not less than 32 inches and the clear height is not less than 6 feet 8 inches. A manually operated, horizontal sliding door may be used as one of the two required exits. Exits may pass through kitchens.

Exit doors, including manually operated horizontal sliding doors, shall be openable from the inside without use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. A single turn of the knob or lever shall release the latch and lock bolts simultaneously.

Yard gates blocking egress to the public way shall also be operable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort.

SMOKE ALARMS

Large-family day care homes shall be equipped with State Fire Marshal approved and listed single-station residential-type smoke alarms. The number and placement of smoke alarms shall be determined by the enforcement authority.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

A portable fire extinguisher shall be provided having a minimum 2A10BC rating.

FIRE ALARM DEVICE

At least one manual device at a location approved by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall be provided. The device shall actuate a fire alarm signal, which shall be audible throughout the facility at a minimum of 15 db above ambient noise level. Such device shall be attached to the structure and may be of any type acceptable to the AHJ provided that such devices are distinctive in tone. The approved device is an electric alarm bell actuated by a switch similar to a fire alarm pull station. The installation of a fire alarm system is not required.

SPECIAL HAZARDS

Every unenclosed gas-fired water heater or furnace which is within the area used for child care in a large-family day care home shall be protected in such a way as to prevent children from making contact with those appliances. This does not apply to kitchen stoves or ovens.

City of Vista Fire Department

LARGE FAMILY DAY-CARE

Requirements Checklist

1. PERMITS

a. fire clearance

Community Care Licensing requires that homes in which day-care is provided for from nine to fourteen children pass a fire clearance inspection prior to being licensed. An inspection fee of \$69 is due and payable at time of inspection. A **pre-inspection** of a facility may be requested to determine suitability of the residence to provide day-care services. Inspection fees will be charged for this service.

b. garage

Day-care is not allowed in the garage unless a change in use permit has been obtained from Planning Department.

c. minor use permit

The City requires a minor use permit to operate a Large Family Day-Care. Permit shall be required prior to fire clearance.

2. MEANS OF EGRESS

a. exits required

Two exits must be provided which are remotely located from each other. One of these may be a sliding glass door.

b. location

Day-care may not be allowed on the second floor unless the building is sprinklered and has two exits from the second floor, one of which provides access directly to the exterior. A basement may not be used unless it has two exits, one of which provides access directly to the exterior.

c. locking devices

Locking devices on the exit doors must be operable in a single motion, with no key or special knowledge required to open the door. Any deadbolt must be interlocked with the handle so that it retracts at the same time that the handle is used to open the door. Any door or gate which must be accessed before reaching the public street or alley must also meet these requirements.

d. security bars

Security bars in rooms used for sleeping {unless there is a door leading to the outside} or on any required exit must be Equipped with an approved release mechanism operable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort.

3. FIRE PROTECTION

a. fire extinguisher

A 2A:10BC extinguisher must be provided. The extinguisher must be wall mounted 3' to 5' off the floor.

b. smoke detectors

Single station battery operated smoke detectors are required in any area in which the children sleep. If the family room is used for naps smoke detectors are required there also. If bedrooms are used, then the bedrooms and the hall outside the bedrooms shall have smoke detectors.

c. alarm

A device suitable for sounding an alarm must be provided. We recommend an alarm bell with a fire alarm type pull station. Alarm devices shall be mounted in a permanent location.

4. GENERAL FIRE SAFETY

a. appliances and heat-producing equipment

Any gas appliance must have a shut-off valve on the gas line. A means to protect children from any gas-fired water heater or furnace which they could touch must be provided. Combustible materials should not be stored adjacent to heat-producing equipment.

5. FIRE RESISTIVE BARRIERS

a. occupancy separation

A garage must be separated from the residence by fire-resistive construction. If there is a door opening from the Garage into the residence it must be a 1 3/8" solid core door equipped with a self-closing device.

6. EMERGENCY PLAN

a. fire drills

Fire drills are recommended monthly.