



**VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
165 DURLEY AVENUE
CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA 93010
(805) 389-9710**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD DAY CARE FACILITIES
(R-3 LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES)**

SCOPE: To provide the requirements for licensed care facilities known as Child Day Care Facilities, or Large Family Day Care Homes.

Ref: Health and Safety Code, Section 1502 – 1599.89, Department of Social Services and the Building Code.

Related forms:

- FP #13.6.4 - for requirements for Community Care Facilities and Residential Care Facilities
- STD 850 – Fire Safety Inspection Request
- LIC 9092 – Fire Pre-inspection/Consultation Request

NOTE: Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, classifies licensed care facilities under the following definitions and this applies to fire/life safety inspections.

DEFINITIONS

CHILD DAY CARE FACILITY: A center or residential facility that provides non-medical care on less than a 24 hour basis to children under 18 years of age in need of supervision, or assistance with daily living. Includes day care centers, employer-sponsored child-care centers and family day care homes.

NOTE: The California Building Code divides Child Day Care Facilities into two categories with the following definitions:

- **SMALL FAMILY DAY CARE HOME:** A residential facility with less than 24 hour care for 8 or fewer children, including those under the age of 10 years who reside at the home. Small Family Day Care Homes are exempt from fire/life safety requirements other than those applicable to R3 Occupancies.
- **LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE HOME:** A residential facility with less than 24 hour care for 9 to 14 persons, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at home.

COMMUNITY CARE FACILITY: A residential or group home facility that provides non-medical care on a 24 hour basis to adults who need assistance with daily living activities. These people may be physically handicapped, mentally impaired or incompetent. Also includes day care programs for adults (less than 24 hour).

RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY: A residential facility that provides non-medical care to adults 60 years of age and older on a 24 hour basis to assist with daily living activities

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. The building shall have an address number which is contrasting in color to the background and visible from the street. No brass or gold colored numbers.
- B. Exit doors shall be openable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. They shall open from the inside with one motion even when the door is locked. This type of lock is often referred to as one motion or having an emergency exit feature. Deadbolts are not allowed and shall be removed or disabled.
- C. Sliding glass doors shall have only the "latch-type" lock on the handle. Remove or disable all other types of locks. Screen doors shall be maintained and openable without difficulty.
- D. An operable smoke detector shall be in each sleeping room and at a point centrally located in the hallway or area giving access to each separate sleeping area.
- E. The door between the interior of the house and the garage shall be a minimum 1-3/8 inches thick, solid core and self-closing.
- F. Maintain the original 1 hour fire resistiveness in the wall between the garage and the residence.
- G. A type 2-A, 10 B:C fire extinguisher shall be mounted in an accessible area near the kitchen with the top no higher than 5 feet above the floor. Handicap requirements through Building and Safety may require mounting lower. The extinguisher shall have a legible current year service tag.
- H. An early warning device shall be provided for sounding a fire alarm. It must be manually operated, electrically or battery powered, permanently mounted and audible throughout the structure with a distinctive tone. Once initiated, the device shall emit a continuous alarm until manually reset. Smoke alarms shall not be used as a substitute for this requirement.
- I. Gates and barriers shall be openable without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. The activating member shall be mounted at a height of not less than 30 inches or more than 44 inches from the floor.
- J. Provide proof of zone clearance to operate a large family daycare home at a single family dwelling from the planning department in the respective jurisdiction (city or county).