



CORONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

GUIDELINE FOR LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES PER 2016 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE

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 Corona Fire Department. It is intended to provide children in a Family Day Care Home the same environment that is provided in a traditional home setting, and to meet the minimum requirements of the 2016 California Fire Code and the California Health & Safety Code.

A Large Family Day Care Home is a provider's own home licensed to provide family day care for seven to fourteen children for periods of less than 24 hours per day. This shall include children who reside at the home. Large Family Day Care homes are classified as Group R-3 occupancies by the State Fire Marshal.

REQUIREMENTS

CONSTRUCTION

Non-rated construction shall be limited to one story in height.

Fire-resistive requirements for exterior walls shall be the same as for R-3 occupancies.

The separation between the garage and the house may be of materials approved for one-hour fire-resistive construction on the garage side. A self-closing, tightfitting, solid wood door 1 3/8" thick must be provided between the garage and the house. Fire dampers need not be installed in air ducts passing through the wall, floor, or ceiling separating the garage from the house, provided the ducts are constructed of steel not less than No. 26 galvanized sheet metal and having no openings into the garage.

EXITS

Large Family Day Care Homes shall be provided with two (2) exit doorways. 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.

Every required exit door shall be operable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. A single turn of the knob 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.

ALARMS

Large Family Day Care homes shall be equipped with single station, residential-type smoke detectors that are approved by the State Fire Marshal. Smoke detectors shall be installed according to manufacturer's instructions and shall be tested monthly. New large family day care homes shall be equipped with carbon monoxide detectors.

Large Family Day Care homes shall provide and maintain a device or devices suitable for manually sounding a fire alarm; alarm device(s) shall be subject to approval by the Fire Department. Such devices shall be attached to the structure, be distinctive in tone, and be audible throughout the structure. A standard, wall-mounted, manually activated electric fire alarm bell is required.

MISCELLANEOUS

A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2A10BC shall be provided. Extinguishers shall be conspicuously located; preferably located along normal paths of travel. Extinguishers shall be mounted so that the top is not higher than five (5) feet or lower than three (3) feet from the floor. Fire extinguishers shall be serviced annually or immediately after use, whichever occurs first.

Fire drills are required at a minimum frequency of once per year.

Unenclosed gas-fired water heaters and furnaces, within the area used for childcare, shall be protected to keep children from coming in contact with the appliances. This does not apply to kitchen stoves and ovens.

Storage and handling of gasoline, fuel oil and other flammable liquids shall be in accordance with the California Fire Code.