

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Safety & Environmental Services Section

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Large Family Day Care Homes



Approved and Authorized by

Guideline F- 02

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Large Family Day Care Homes

PURPOSE

This guideline provides the minimum requirements for Large Family Day Care Homes within single-family dwellings.

SCOPE

A Large Family Day Care Home is a single-family residence licensed to provide day care for seven to fourteen children (including those children who normally reside at the home under the age of 10) for periods of less than 24 hours per day. Large Family Day Care Homes are intended to provide children with the same environment that is provided in a traditional home setting. Large Family Day Care Homes are classified as Group R-3 occupancies by the State Fire Marshal.

This guideline shall apply to all licensed Large Family Day Care Homes within the jurisdiction of the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA).

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Residences licensed as Large Family Day Care Homes must meet the basic requirements listed in this section, at a minimum.

CONSTRUCTION

- A. Rooms used for day-care purposes shall not be located above the first story.
Exception: Buildings equipped with an automatic sprinkler system throughout and which have at least one of the required exits providing access directly to the exterior. NFPA 13R may be used in large-family day-care homes. The sprinkler omissions of NFPA 13R shall not apply unless approved by the enforcing agency. (2007 CFC Chapter 10 Section 1015.7 [B])
- B. Fire-resistive requirements for exterior walls shall be the same as for R-3 occupancies. (2007 CBC Chapter 7 section 711.3)
- C. 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 inches thick must be provided between the garage and the house. Ducts in a private garage and ducts penetrating the walls or ceilings separating the dwelling unit from the garage shall be constructed of a minimum 0.019-inch sheet metal and shall have no openings into the garage. (2007 CBC Chapter 4 Section 406.1.4)

EXITS

- A. Large Family Day Care Homes shall be provided with two 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. (2007 CFC Chapter 10 Section 1015.7 [B].
- B. 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 should release the latch and lock bolts. (2007 CFC Chapter Section 1015.7 [B].
- C. 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. (2007 CBC Chapter 10 section 1008.1.8.1)

ALARMS

- A. Large Family Day Care Home 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. A smoke alarm shall be required in the room the kids sleep in. (2007 CBC Chapter 3 section 310.3.2)
- B. Every large-family day-care home shall be provided with at least one manual device at a location approved by the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). Such device shall actuate a fire alarm signal, which shall be audible throughout the facility at a minimum level of 15 dba above ambient noise level. These devices need not be interconnected to any other fire alarm device, have a control panel or be electrically supervised or provided with emergency power. Such device or devices shall be attached to the structure and may be of any acceptable to the OCFA, provided that such devices are distinctive in tone and are audible throughout the structure. A wall-mounted, manually activated, electric fire alarm bell is recommended. (CFC 2007 Chapter 9 Section 907.2.6.4)

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2-A:10-BC shall be provided. Extinguishers should be conspicuously located where they are readily visible; preferable located along normal paths of travel. Extinguishers shall be mounted so that the top is not higher than five feet or lower than three feet from the floor. Fire extinguishers shall be serviced every six years or immediately after use, whichever occurs first. (2007 CBC Chapter 3 section 310.3.3)
- B. Fire drills are required at a frequency of at least once per year.
- C. 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. (2007 CBC chapter 3 section 310.3.6)
- D. Storage and handling of gasoline, fuel oil, and other flammable liquids shall be in accordance with Chapter 34 of the 2007 California Fire Code.