



Corona Fire Department

Large Family Child Care Home Guideline per 2025 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 Large Family Child Care Home the same environment that is provided in a traditional home setting, and to meet the minimum requirements of the 2025 California Fire Code and the California Health & Safety Code.

A Large Family Child Care Home is a provider's own home licensed to provide family day care for fourteen or fewer children for periods of less than 24 hours per day. This shall include children who reside at the home. Large Family Child Care homes are classified as Group R-3.1 occupancies by the State Fire Marshal.

REQUIREMENTS

CONSTRUCTION

- 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

- Homes shall be provided with a minimum of two (2) exit doorways. Every required exit door shall be capable of opening so that the clear width is not less than 32" 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.
- 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

- 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 the manufacturers' instructions and shall be tested monthly. Smoke detectors shall be hardwired and interconnected throughout the home.
- Smoke detectors must be installed in each bedroom, hallway outside of bedrooms, each floor of the home, and in the main living areas. Any areas of the home used for children's sleeping purposes must also have smoke detectors installed.
- Homes shall be equipped with carbon monoxide detectors that are approved by the State Fire Marshal. Carbon Monoxide detectors shall be installed outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. On every occupiable level of the home. Where a fuel burning device is installed in the bedrooms, carbon monoxide detector shall be installed within the bedroom.



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- Large Family Child 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 readily identifiable as a fire alarm, attached to the structure, be distinctive in tone, and be audible throughout the structure. A standard, wall-mounted, manually activated electric fire alarm bell or horn/strobe is recommended.
- Permits are not required through the building department for the installation of such alarm. It is recommended that a certified contractor or electrician completes the installation.
- Alarms user permit required through Fire Department if monitored by station and dispatch will be notified upon alarm a

MISCELLANEOUS

- A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2A10BC shall be provided. Extinguishers shall be provided within every 75 feet of travel and on every level of the home. 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.
- 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. They shall be properly earthquake strapped and have flame covers installed per manufacturers' instructions. 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.
- Fire drills are required at a minimum frequency of twice per year. Fire drill records shall be maintained on premises and be made available to fire department on request.

PRE-INSPECTION PROCESS

Prior to requesting a fire clearance inspection, a pre-inspection process requires document submittal for review. A site plan and letter of intent must be provided. Please submit these drawings and letter at least two weeks prior to requesting inspection.

Site Plan Requirements

Provide a site plan of the residence/facility. The plans must include the following:

- The address of the building
- Occupancy classification as defined above
- Number of stories in your home/facility
- Exterior of building showing access to public way
- Locations of exits and egress pathways.
- Locations of landings, ramps, stairways, steps, sidewalks, and gates.
- Locations of ambulatory, non-ambulatory, and/or bedridden clients
- Locations of any rooms that staff only
- Smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector locations
- Fire alarm location
- Fire extinguisher location



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All dimensions must be included. A floor plan showing the furniture layout shall be provided for each room. Aisle widths shall be indicated in the plan even though furniture does not need to be drawn to scale. Furniture shall be in place for fire inspection.

Letter of Intent Requirements

Provide a letter of intent describing the details and intent of your business. At a minimum include:

- Facility description and type of care provided.
- Hours and Days of Operation
- Number of staff members
- Number of clients
- Description of clients including:
 - Age range
 - Ambulatory, non-ambulatory or bedridden status
 - Any mental or physical restrictions

Corona Municipal Code 3.02 requires that we collect a fee for cost recovery to provide this pre-inspection and to process your State Mandated Fire Clearance. The fee for this pre-inspection is currently set at \$175.00. Please remit the requested documents and payment prior to scheduling inspections.

A fire clearance **does not** constitute zoning clearance. Contact the Planning Department for zoning information.