



Fairfield Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
1200 Kentucky Street, Fairfield, CA 94533
Phone (707) 428.7375

SMALL FAMILY DAYCARE
STD# 17-24 Effective Date: 01/01/2024

SCOPE

The purpose of this document is to provide small family day-care providers with the necessary requirements to insure they are operating in conformance with California State Law and covers the fire and life safety requirements related to the safe operation of a small family day-care.

SPECIFICATIONS

1. The property address shall be placed on the residence as to be plainly visible from the street or road fronting the property.
2. Child care shall be limited to the first floor only unless the home has two exits which are remotely located from each other on the floors containing daycare functions. A manually operated horizontal sliding glass door may be used as one of the two required exits.
3. Exit doors, including manually operated horizontal sliding doors, shall be operable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. This requirement can be satisfied with the use of interconnected hardware on any required exit door. Interconnected hardware simultaneously retracts both bolt and latch, allowing a single motion egress. Remove or disable all other types of locks. Screen doors shall be maintained and operable without difficulty.
4. Exterior exit pathway to gates shall be maintained free from clutter or obstruction from exit door to the public sidewalk. Gates from the rear yard shall be provided with a latch assembly that is operable from the inside, open freely and be clear of any obstruction.



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5. There shall be a landing or floor on each side of each exterior door. The width of each landing shall not be less than the door served. Every landing shall have a minimum dimension of 36 inches measured in the direction of travel.
6. The residence shall be equipped with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2-A:10-B:C rating. Fire extinguishers shall be located in a conspicuous location and shall not be obstructed or obscured from view. Extinguishers shall be serviced annually.
7. Small family day-care homes shall be equipped with State Fire Marshal approved and listed single station residential type smoke alarms. Smoke alarms shall be hard wired and interconnected. Smoke alarms shall have a valid production and expiration date. Smoke alarms shall be located in all sleeping rooms and hallways leading to these rooms. Smoke alarms shall be placed in rooms or areas planned for sleeping or napping. Additional smoke alarms shall be installed as directed by fire inspectors.
8. Existing dwellings or sleeping units that have attached garages or fuel-burning appliances shall be provided with a carbon monoxide alarm. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed and approved by the California State Fire Marshal and installed per manufacturer requirements.
9. A garage shall not be used as part of the daycare area unless the garage area has been converted under building permit to be used as habitable space with egress, windows, ventilation, and all other requirements of code.
10. When a dwelling has an attached garage, a separation wall between the dwelling and garage is required to prevent the spread of smoke and fire from the garage into the home.



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11. Door openings must meet one of the following requirements:
 - a) solid-wood door at least 1-3/8 inches in thickness, or
 - b) insulated steel door at least 1-3/8 inches in thickness, or
 - c) labeled door having a fire-protection rating of not less than 20 minutes.

12. Doors shall be self-closing and self-latching. Only U.L. listed fire door, self-closing devices shall be used.

13. Openings from a private garage directly into a room used for sleeping purposes, including areas used for day-care sleeping/napping, shall not be permitted.

14. Aggregate quantities of all hazardous materials including gasoline for lawn maintenance shall be in approved containers and not exceed 5 gallons for garage storage and 10 gallons for outside storage.

15. Storage of combustible materials shall be orderly. Storage shall be separated from hot water heaters by 36 inches.

16. Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be substituted for permanent wiring. Appliances shall be plugged directly into an approved power receptacle or a UL listed surge protection device. Multi-plug adaptors shall not be used.