



SAN RAFAEL

THE CITY WITH A MISSION

Fire Department

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Small and Large Residential Family Childcare Requirements

The California Child Day Care Facilities Act is the law that governs state health, safety, and licensing requirements of all childcare facilities, including family childcare homes. The statute pertaining to the fire safety requirements for Small Family Childcare Homes can be found in the [Health and Safety Code 1597.44](#).

Small Family Childcare Homes – Maximum number of children: Eight including those children under age 10 who reside in the home.

- A State Form 850 inspection request for the Fire Department is required.
- Furnish confirmation of completion of 15 hours of training in pediatric CPR, pediatric first aid & preventative health practices coursework.
- Furnish criminal record statements.
- All the following shall apply to small family childcare homes:
 - The use of a single-family residence as a small family childcare home shall be considered a residential use of property for the purposes of all local ordinances.
 - No local jurisdiction shall impose a business license, fee, or tax for the privilege of operating a small family childcare home.
 - No local jurisdiction shall impose a zoning permit for the privilege of operating a family childcare home.
 - Use of a single-family dwelling for purposes of a small family childcare home shall not constitute a change of occupancy.
 - No more than two infants are cared for at any one time when more than six children are cared for.
- A 2A 10BC fire extinguisher mounted (and with current service tag) in an accessible location.
- Smoke detectors shall be installed centrally located in all hallways leading to sleeping rooms and in each sleeping room.
- One or more functioning carbon monoxide detectors shall be installed as per manufacturer instructions.
- The home and yards are free of hazards that could cause injury to children.
- Gas fired equipment, such as a water heater shall be protected (inaccessible) to children.
- Extension cords are not used in lieu of permanent wiring.
- The home's electrical panels (main panel and any subpanels) are accessible, and circuits labeled.
- There is a gas shut off wrench located near the gas meter, or a seismic shutoff valve is installed.
- The address number is visible from the street.
- There is no flammable vegetation in the yard areas in violation of San Rafael Municipal Code section 4.12. More info here: <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/protecting-against-a-wildfire/>
- Children may be located above the first story when a fire sprinkler system conforming to NFPA 13D is installed. Where any level other than the first story is used for day-care purposes, one of the two required exits for that level shall provide access directly to the exterior without entering the first story. The second exit may either pass through the first story or exit directly to the exterior.

Large Family Childcare Homes – Maximum number of children: 12, including those children under age 10 who reside in the home. Up to 14 children if:

- At least one child is enrolled in and attending kindergarten.
- No more than three infants are cared for during any time when more than 12 children are being cared for.
- The licensee notified a parent that the facility is caring for two additional school-age children and that there may be up to 13 or 14 children at the home at one time.
- The licensee obtains the written consent of the property owner when the family day care home is operated on property that is leased or rented.
- A State Form 850 inspection request for the Fire Department is required.
- Furnish confirmation of completion of 15 hours of training in pediatric CPR, pediatric first aid & preventative health practices coursework.
- Furnish criminal record statements.
- Single station smoke alarms are required in each hallway leading to sleeping rooms and in all sleeping rooms.
- At least one manual pull station fire alarm device at a location approved by the authority having jurisdiction.
 - Shall actuate a signal which shall be audible throughout the facility at a minimum level of 15 dB above ambient noise level.
 - Need not be interconnected to any other fire alarm device, have a control panel, or be electrically supervised or provided with emergency power.
 - Shall be attached to the structure and may be of any type acceptable to the enforcing agency, provided that such devices are listed and approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
 - Pull station to be mounted near front door no higher than 5' from floor level.
- A 2A 10BC fire extinguisher mounted (and with current service tag) in an accessible location.
- Gas fired equipment, such as a water heater shall be protected (inaccessible) to children.
- Extension cords are not used in lieu of permanent wiring.
- The home's electrical panels (main panel and any subpanels) are accessible, and circuits labeled.
- There is a gas shut off wrench located near the gas meter, or a seismic shutoff valve is installed.
- Smoke detectors are properly located in all sleeping rooms and hallways leading to sleeping rooms and on each floor of the home.
- The home and yards are free of hazards that could cause injury to children.
- The address number is visible from the street.
- There is no flammable vegetation in the yard areas in violation of San Rafael Municipal Code section 4.12. More info here: <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/protecting-against-a-wildfire/>
- Children may be located above the first story when a fire sprinkler system conforming to NFPA 13R is installed. Where any level other than the first story is used for day-care purposes, one of the two required exits for that level shall provide access directly to the exterior without entering the first story. The second exit may either pass through the first story or exit directly to the exterior.