



# Placentia Fire & Life Safety

Community Risk Reduction  
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## Residential Large Family Daycare Facilities

### PURPOSE

The following guideline is intended to ensure compliance with the appropriate requirements for residential large family daycare facilities. Regulations regarding residential daycare facilities can be found in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, 2025 California Fire Code (CFC), 2025 California Building Code (CBC), 2025 California Residential Code (CRC), and the California Health and Safety Code (H&SC).

### SCOPE

This guideline applies to licensed facilities **classified as large family daycare by the Department of Social Services**. These facilities may house from 9 to 14 children for less than 24 hours and are located in an R-3 (single family residence) or R-2 (multifamily residential building) occupancy. This guideline applies only to facilities located within the jurisdiction of the City of Placentia.

### SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Department of Social Services (DSS) Form STD 850, along with a site and floor plan, must be forwarded to Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department (PFLSD) from DSS prior to scheduling the fire clearance inspection. Documents must be submitted at least two weeks before the scheduled fire clearance inspection date. Upon completion of the inspection, the 850 form will be completed and returned to DSS by PFLSD. Please review this guideline thoroughly and complete Attachment D prior to your inspection to facilitate fire clearance sign-off by PFLSD.

The fire clearance inspection request cannot be processed, and the 850 form cannot be completed by PFLSD if the required information is not submitted on time or if the plans are incomplete.

The plans must include the information listed below:

- Building Address:** Street name and number, city, zip code
- Occupancy Classification:** R-3, if located in a detached single-family home or duplex; R-2 if located in a multifamily residential building (apartment, condos)
- Site Plan:** Illustrating the following:

- Outline of the home and any other structures on the property (detached garages, sheds, etc.)
  - Exit pathways from the home to the street—note the width of the pathway at its narrowest point
  - Fences and walls over 3 feet tall
  - Gates—note the clear opening width
- ☐ **Floor Plan:** Illustrating the following:
- All rooms in the home—label each room with its function (bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, etc.) and clearly identify which spaces are proposed for daycare use and, of those spaces, which will be used for napping
  - Attached garages—show doors, windows, or other openings between the garage and the rest of the home
  - Interior and exterior doors—note the clear height/width of each door
  - The location of all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors—note whether they are existing devices or newly added
  - The manual fire alarm pull station location (see Attachment B)
- ☐ **Sprinkler System:** Note if the home is equipped with a fire sprinkler system. A fire sprinkler system is required if any space used for daycare purposes is located above the first story.

Please be aware that fire clearance from PFLSD does not constitute approval from other agencies that may have jurisdiction over this facility. Please contact the City of Placentia building and planning departments regarding their zoning, construction, and permit requirements.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Large family daycare facilities shall comply with the requirements listed below:

- ☐ **Smoke Alarms/Detectors:** Smoke alarms are required in all dwellings used for large family daycare purposes. Smoke alarm devices shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's published guidelines/instructions. See Attachment C for smoke alarm locations.

Where more than one new smoke alarm is installed, all newly installed devices must be interconnected to each other physically or wirelessly, so that when one activates, all of the other newly installed devices will also sound an alarm. Newly installed smoke alarms are recommended, but not required, to be interconnected with existing devices. When activated, smoke alarms shall be clearly audible in all sleeping rooms with all intervening doors closed.

Smoke alarms shall be UL listed and California State Fire Marshal approved and shall be tested and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Smoke alarms that no longer function and/or are older than ten years shall be replaced; replace the device if a manufacturer's date cannot be found (CBC 907.2.11.2.4 and NFPA 72).

- ☐ **Carbon Monoxide Detectors/Alarms:** Carbon monoxide (CO) detection is required in dwellings with gas or wood-burning fireplaces, or gas or fuel-oil forced air

furnaces, or in homes with an attached garage where there is a door, duct, or other opening between the garage and the rest of the home. See Attachment C for CO device locations.

CO devices shall be hardwired to the home's electrical system and shall have battery back-up. All CO devices shall be interconnected, either physically or wirelessly, so that if one activates they all sound an alarm.

**Exception:** Battery operated devices are permitted in homes built prior to January 1, 2011 if any work done on the home does not result in exposure of the structure in the areas where devices are required.

Install CO devices in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. CO devices shall be UL listed and State Fire Marshal approved. Combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are permissible. Electrical work shall be approved by the local building department (*CFC 915*).

- **Fire Alarm:** Every large family daycare facility shall be provided with a fire alarm that consists of at least one manual initiating device connected to a bell, horn, or other notification device. The initiating device and the notification device shall be listed by the California State Fire Marshal for use in a residential or commercial fire alarm system or as a component of a combination residential fire/burglar alarm system. The initiating device shall be placed between 42 and 48 inches off the floor at an approved location in the home and, upon activation, shall cause the notification device to sound an alarm signal that is loud enough to be clearly heard throughout the home above all background noise. The initiating and notification devices for the fire alarm must be securely attached to the structure. They can be a standalone system and not required to be interconnected to any other alarm or detection device in the home (e.g., smoke alarms, CO detectors) unless those devices are being used to sound the alarm signal for the fire alarm (such as in a combination fire/burglar alarm system). The fire alarm does not need to be provided with back-up power. See Attachment B (*CBC 907.2.6.5*).
- **Exiting:** There shall be a minimum of two approved exits from the dwelling that are remotely located from each other. Exit doors shall be at least 6 feet 8 inches in height with at least 32- inches of clearance when opened at a 90-degree angle. A sliding door may be used as one of the two required exits as long as it meets the 32-inch unobstructed opening width (*CBC 1006.2.2.7, 1032.2.2*).

These required exit doors and any gates along the path of exit travel shall be equipped with hardware that does not require any special effort or knowledge, nor require the use of a key or other tool, to operate. If a second lock such as a deadbolt is installed on a door, both the primary door knob lock and the deadbolt lock shall release in tandem and allow the door to open freely when the door knob is turned; no other locks or latches, such as a clasp and padlock, security chain, or surface-mounted slide bolt, are permitted (*CBC 1010.2, 1032.2.2*).

In addition to the requirements above, the following apply:

1. Exit paths to the public way shall be maintained clear with no furniture, equipment, storage, or other obstructions that could hinder immediate use (*CFC 1032.1*).
2. Basements used for day care purposes shall be provided with two approved exits that are remotely located from each other, one of which must provide access directly to the exterior (*CBC 1006.2.2.7*).
3. Daycare use is not allowed on stories above the first floor unless the home is protected by a fire sprinkler system. Stories above the first used for daycare purposes shall have two exits that are remotely located from each other, one of which must provide access directly to the exterior (*CBC 1006.2.2.7*).
4. Homes located entirely above the first floor that are used for daycare, as may be the case in apartment buildings, shall meet the requirements of CBC 455.6 and CBC 1006.2.2.7.
5. Emergency escape and rescue openings shall be maintained free of any obstructions other than those noted below and shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge.
  - i. Bars, grilles, covers, screens or similar devices are permitted to be placed over emergency escape and rescue openings provided the minimum net clear opening size is not compromised and such devices shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool, special knowledge, or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the emergency escape and rescue opening. *The release mechanism shall be maintained operable at all times. Such bars, grills, grates or any similar devices shall be equipped with an approved exterior release device for use by the fire department (CFC 1032.7, CCR Title 19, Div 1, Section 4.3).*

□ **Other Requirements:**

1. Provide a minimum of (4) four-inch Address numbers that contrast with their background. Address numbers are required to be attached to the structure and visible from the street (*CFC 505.1*).
2. Provide a fire extinguisher with a minimum classification/rating of 2A:10B:C. The extinguisher is required to be securely attached to a wall in a visible and readily accessible location with the top of the extinguisher mounted no more than 5 feet above finished floor level, with the bottom at least 4" above the floor, in a conspicuous and unobstructed location. The extinguisher is required to be visually inspected annually and serviced every six years by a licensed fire protection company. A current annual service tag is required to be attached to the fire extinguisher or, if the extinguisher was purchased within the last year, proof of purchase date is required. Please review the manufacturer's guidelines for additional requirements and instructions on how to use the extinguisher (*CBC 906.1, 906.9*).

3. Fireplaces and gas-fired water heaters and furnaces in areas used for daycare shall be protected in such a way to prevent children from making contact with those appliances (*CBC 455.7*).
4. Maintain combustible storage clearance around water heaters as per manufacturer's specifications (*CFC 305.1*).
5. All fire and smoke rated construction separating the garage and the dwelling must be maintained in good condition with no open penetrations (*CFC 703.1*).
6. If the garage is attached to the dwelling unit, doors between the dwelling and the garage shall be equipped with a self-closing device and be positive latching. The door shall be either solid wood or a solid honeycomb-core steel door that is a minimum of 1-3/8 inches thick; a 20-minute rated door equipped with a smoke gasket is also acceptable. There shall be no openings from the garage into any of the sleeping areas (*CBC 406.3.2.1*).
7. The garage shall not be used as living quarters and/or daycare unless this conversion has been approved by the local building department (*CBC 105.1*).
8. All modifications to the structure, including electrical or mechanical systems, must be reviewed, inspected, and approved by the local building department prior to scheduling a fire clearance inspection with PFLSD (*CBC 105.1*).

# Attachment A Site Plan Example

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

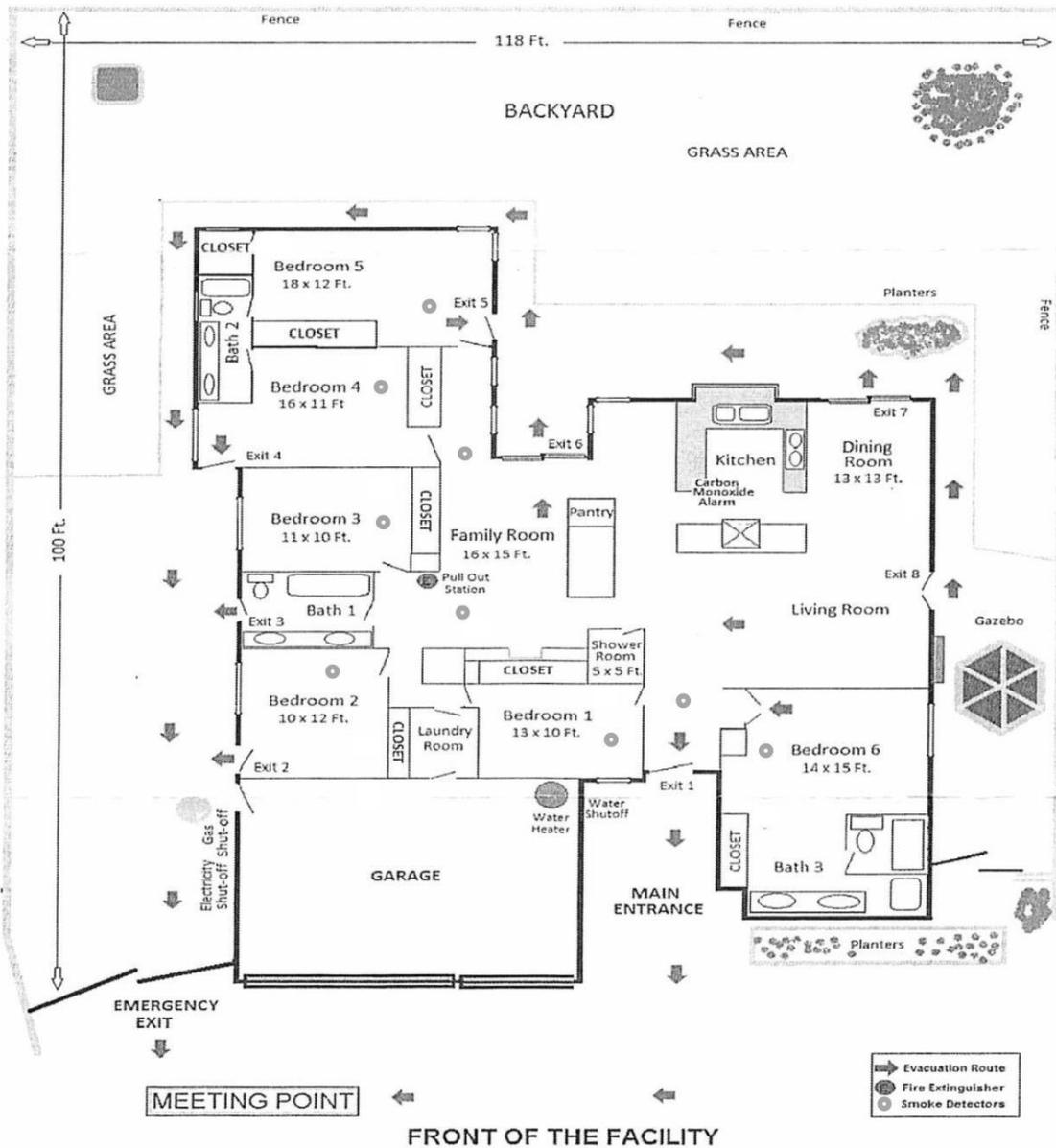
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## FACILITY SKETCH (Yard)

The yard sketch show all buildings in the yard including the home (with no detail), garage and storage building. Include walks, driveways, play area, fences, gates. Show any potential hazardous area such as pools, garbage storage, animal pens, etc. Try to keep de sizes close to scale.

FACILITY NAME:

232 Prospect, Yorba Linda, CA 92886



## Attachment B Fire Alarm Configurations



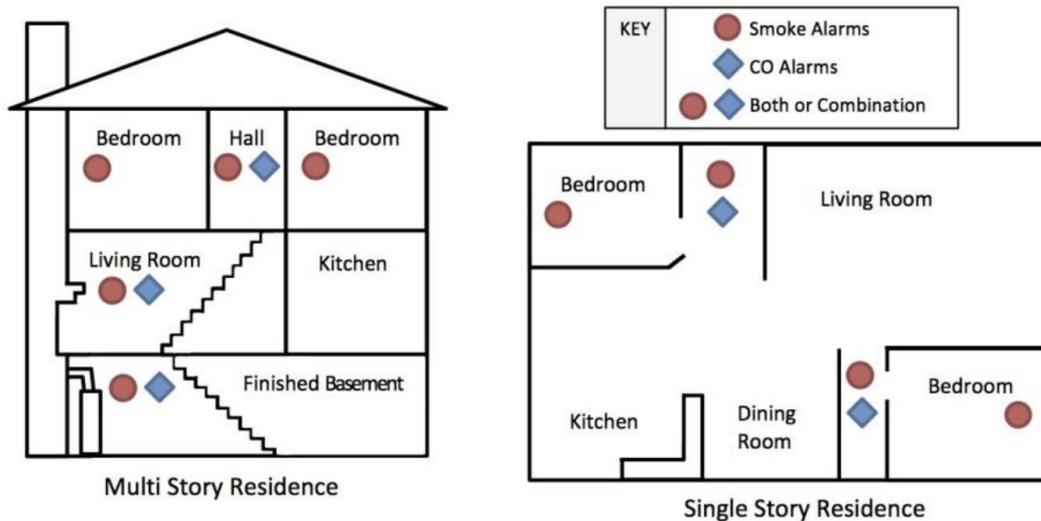
The combinations of alarm initiating and notification devices shown above are examples only and are not intended to endorse any particular brand, model, or configuration. Other devices may be acceptable provided they are listed by the California State Fire Marshal as components of a residential fire alarm system, a commercial fire alarm system, or a combination residential fire and burglar alarm system.

Where the manual initiating device and/or the notification device is powered by the home's 120V electrical wiring, the connection shall be permitted, inspected, and approved by the local building department. Permits may not be needed where the devices are supplied by low-voltage wiring—verify construction, permit, and inspection requirements with the building department prior to installation.

This fire alarm system is not required to be interconnected with the smoke alarms or CO detectors unless those devices are being used to sound the alarm signal throughout the home.

## Attachment C

### Required Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Locations



#### Smoke Alarms:

1. In each bedroom/sleeping area
2. In the room or space leading to each separate bedroom/sleeping area in the home (for example, in the hallway serving one or more bedrooms)
3. On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and finished attics. In split level homes where there is no intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than a full story below the upper level

***Do not install smoke alarms in the kitchen, bathrooms, garage, crawl space, or unfinished attics. Do not install photoelectric smoke alarms within 3' of a door to a bathroom that has a tub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a device in a space that requires it.***

#### Carbon Monoxide Alarms:

1. In the room or space leading to each separate bedroom/sleeping area in the home (for example, in the hallway serving one or more bedrooms)
2. On every occupiable level, including basements
3. In every bedroom or sleeping area where there is a fireplace or other fuel-burning appliance located within the space or an attached bathroom

## **Attachment D**

### **Business Owner Pre-inspection Checklist**

Use this checklist in conjunction with this Guideline to prepare your large family daycare for a fire-clearance inspection by PFLSD. As the design and use of individual homes can vary, this checklist is not all-inclusive and other requirements that are not included herein may apply.

#### **GENERAL**

- Building modifications have been approved by the building department
- Garage is not used for daycare unless approved as a living space by the building department
- Home has minimum 4" high address numbers clearly visible from the street

#### **DETECTORS/ALARMS**

- Smoke alarms installed and functional
- Carbon monoxide alarms installed and functional
- Fire alarm installed and audible throughout the home

#### **EXITING**

- Two exit paths from the daycare area to the street are provided
- All exit doors have minimum 32" clear opening width
- Single action hardware is installed on all exit doors and gates
- Deadbolts open in tandem with the primary door knob
- Keys are not required to open the exit doors/gates in the direction of exit travel
- Exit paths are clear of obstructions
- Basements and sleeping rooms have emergency escape/rescue openings
- Emergency escape/rescue openings lead to the public way and are accessible to firefighters
- Bars/grills over emergency escape/rescue openings are openable from the inside

#### **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

- 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher has been provided
- Extinguisher is new or has been serviced in the last year
- Extinguisher is mounted to the wall in a visible and accessible location

#### **FIRE SAFETY**

- Fire places and gas-fire water heaters are protected from contact by children
- No combustibles are stored near water heaters or other sources of ignition
- Door between the dwelling and garage is in good condition
- Door between the dwelling and garage is self-closing and latching
- Door between the dwelling and garage is of proper type
- There are no dog-doors, windows, or other openings between the garage and dwelling