



# Requirements for Large Family Day Care Facilities

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Butte County Fire Department  
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## Definitions:

- **Day Care** = Shall, for the purposes of these regulations, mean the care of persons during any period of a 24-hour day where permanent sleeping accommodations are not provided.
  - **Note:** “Day Care” shall not be construed to preclude the use of cots or mats for napping purposes, provided all employees, attendants and staff personnel are awake and on duty in the area where napping occurs. (from the 2007 CFC)
- **Day Care Home, Large Family** = A provider’s own home licensed to provide day care for periods less than 24 hours per day for nine to 14 persons, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at the home. (from the 2007 CFC)
- **Day Care Home, Small Family** = A home which provides family day care to eight or fewer children, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at the home, in the provider’s own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day. Small family day-care homes are exempted from state fire and life safety regulations other than those state and local standards applicable to Group R-3 occupancies. See Health and Safety Code, Section 13143 (b). (from the 2007 CFC)
- **CCL** – Community Care Licensing
- **CCR** – California Code of Regulations
- **CFC** – California Fire Code

## Occupancy Type – R-3

**Prohibition on Open Flames** – Open flames are not allowed in any licensed care facility (Candles, etc.) – 2007 CFC 308.3.9

**Fire Protection Systems** – Every Large Family Day Care home shall be provided with at least one manual device at a location approved by the Fire Department. Such devices shall actuate a fire alarm signal, which shall have a distinctive tone and be audible throughout the facility at a minimum level of 15 db 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. Local alarm companies have information on this type of device. - 2007 CFC 907.2.6.4

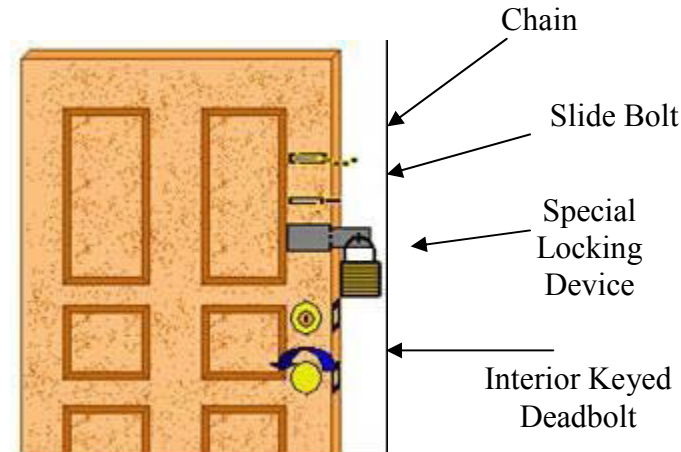
**Smoke Alarms** – Required outside of each separate sleeping area, in all rooms used for sleeping purposes, and on each story of a dwelling unit. – 2007 CFC 907.2.10.1.2 (1,2,3)

## Exiting –

- **Two Exits** - A minimum of two exits that are remotely located from one another are required. – 2007 CBC 1015.7
- **Basements** - Where basements are used for day care purposes, one exit must directly access the exterior of the building without entering the first story. The second exit may either pass through the first story or exit directly to the exterior. – 2007 CBC 1015.7
- **Exits** – There shall be a minimum of two exits from the residence. All exits (i.e., doors and gates) shall have single-action hardware. This hardware is operable from the inside without a key or any special knowledge or effort. No other locks or latches shall be installed on doors, screen doors, or gates. Exits shall be at least three feet wide by six feet eight inches high and provide a 32” clear opening. – 2007 CFC 1008.1.1, 1008.1.8.1

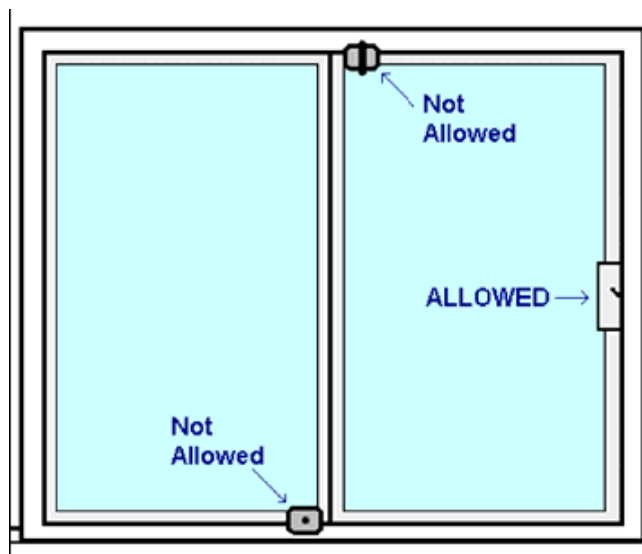
**Figure 1**

### Locks Not Allowed



- **Sliding Doors** – Sliding doors may be approved as required exits if only the manufacturer’s locking/latching hardware is used. No additional locks or devices (e.g., broomsticks placed in the track) may be added. See Figure 2 on next page for details.

**Figure 2**  
**Sliding Door Details**



**Fire Extinguishers** – (May vary from CCL Requirements) No more than 75’ travel distance to a 2A:10B:C (minimum rating) fire extinguisher. - 2007 CFC 906.1 (7) & Section 3, Title 19 CCR

**Special Hazards** - Every unenclosed gas-fired water heater or furnace that is within the area used for childcare in a large family day-care home shall be protected in such a way as to prevent children from making contact with those appliances.

EXCEPTION: This does not apply to kitchen stoves or ovens.  
– 2007 CBC 310.3.6

**Addressing** – Address must be posted on the exterior of the building and clearly visible from the street.

**Location and Sprinkler Requirements** – Rooms used for day care purposes must 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.  
- 2007 CBC 1015.7

**Occupant Load** – 35 sq. ft. per occupant (net) – 2007 CFC Table 1004.1.1

**Other** – Applicant may need to check with your local Building and Planning Department to see if other permits or applications must be filed.

**Code Requirements** – The requirements listed in this flier are the Fire Department requirements. Contact your licensing agency or the Fire Prevention Bureau if you need clarification on requirements that seem to conflict. Thank You.