

**Excerpts related to Family Child Care Homes from**

**CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE  
SECTION 1597.30-1597.621 <sup>1</sup>**

1597.30. The Legislature finds and declares:

- (a) It has a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of children in family homes that provide day care.
- (b) That there are insufficient numbers of regulated family day care homes in California.
- (c) There will be a growing need for child day care facilities due to the increase in working parents.
- (d) Many parents prefer child day care located in their neighborhoods in family homes.
- (e) There should be a variety of child care settings, including regulated family day care homes, as suitable alternatives for parents.
- (f) That the program to be operated by the state should be cost effective, streamlined, and simple to administer in order to ensure adequate care for children placed in family day care homes, while not placing undue burdens on the providers.
- (g) That the state should maintain an efficient program of regulating family day care homes that ensures the provision of adequate protection, supervision, and guidance to children in their homes.

1597.40. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that family day care homes for children should be situated in normal residential surroundings so as to give children the home environment which is conducive to healthy and safe development. It is the public policy of this state to provide children in a family day care home the same home environment as provided in a traditional home setting.

The Legislature declares this policy to be of statewide concern with the purpose of occupying the field to the exclusion of municipal zoning, building and fire codes and regulations governing the use or occupancy of family day care homes for children, except as specifically provided for in this chapter, and to prohibit any restrictions relating to the use of single-family residences for family day care homes for children except as provided by this chapter.

(b) Every provision in a written instrument entered into relating to real property which purports to forbid or restrict the conveyance, encumbrance, leasing, or mortgaging of the real property for use or occupancy as a family day care home for children, is void and every restriction or prohibition in any such written instrument as to the use or occupancy of the property as a family day care home for children is void.

(c) Except as provided in subdivision (d), every restriction or prohibition entered into, whether by way of covenant, condition upon use or occupancy, or upon transfer of title to real property, which restricts or prohibits directly, or indirectly limits, the acquisition, use, or occupancy of such property for a family day care home for children is void.

(d) (1) A prospective family day care home provider, who resides

State  
"preemption" of  
local regulation

Owner/landlord of  
single-family  
residence and  
Covenants,  
conditions &  
restrictions  
(CC&Rs) of  
homeowners'  
associations cannot  
prohibit or restrict  
FCC use

<sup>1</sup> Code downloaded from [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) on 7/21/08. Excerpted and annotated by Kristen Anderson, July 2008

in a rental property, **shall provide 30 days' written notice to the landlord or owner of the rental property prior to the commencement of operation of the family day care home.**

Landlord notification

(2) For family day care home providers who have relocated an existing licensed family day care home program to a rental property on or after January 1, 1997, less than 30 days' written notice may be provided in cases where the department approves the operation of the new location of the family day care home in less than 30 days, or the home is licensed in less than 30 days, in order that service to the children served in the former location not be interrupted.

(3) A family day care home provider in operation on rental or leased property as of January 1, 1997, shall notify the landlord or property owner in writing at the time of the annual license fee renewal, or by March 31, 1997, whichever occurs later.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon commencement of, or knowledge of, the operation of a family day care home on his or her property, the landlord or property owner may require the family day care home provider to pay an increased security deposit for operation of the family day care home. The increase in deposit may be required notwithstanding that a lesser amount is required of tenants who do not operate family day care homes. In no event, however, shall the total security deposit charged exceed the maximum allowable under existing law.

Security deposit rights & restrictions

1597.43. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Family day care homes operated under the standards of state law **constitute accessory uses of residentially zoned and occupied properties and do not fundamentally alter the nature of the underlying residential uses.** Family day care homes draw clients and vehicles to their sites during a limited time of day and do not require the attendance of a large number of employees and equipment.

1597.44. A small family day care home may provide care for more than **six and up to eight children**, without an additional adult attendant, if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) At least one child is enrolled in and attending kindergarten or elementary school and a second child is at least six years of age.

(b) No more than two infants are cared for during any time when more than six children are cared for.

(c) The licensee notifies each parent that the facility is caring for two additional schoolage children and that there may be up to seven or eight children in the home at one time.

(d) 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.

Enrollment of additional 2 school-age in Small FCCH; Consent of property owner

1597.45. All of the following shall apply to **small family day care homes**:

(a) The use of single-family residence as a small family day care home shall be considered a **residential use of property** for the purposes of all local ordinances.

(b) **No local jurisdiction shall impose any business license, fee, or tax for the privilege of operating a small family day care home.**

(c) Use of a single-family dwelling for purposes of a small family day care home shall not constitute a change of occupancy for purposes of Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 17910) of Division 13 (State Housing Law) or for purposes of local building codes.

No local regulation of Small FCCH

(d) A small family day care home shall not be subject to Article 1 (commencing with Section 13100) or Article 2 (commencing with Section 13140) of Chapter 1 of Part 2, except that a small family day care home shall contain a fire extinguisher and smoke detector device that meet standards established by the State Fire Marshal.

1597.46. All of the following shall apply to **large family day care homes:**

(a) **A city, county, or city and county shall not prohibit large family day care homes on lots zoned for single-family dwellings, but shall do one of the following:**

(1) Classify these homes as a **permitted use** of residential property for zoning purposes.

(2) **Grant a nondiscretionary permit to use a lot zoned for a single-family dwelling to any large family day care home that complies with local ordinances prescribing reasonable standards, restrictions, and requirements concerning spacing and concentration, traffic control, parking, and noise control** relating to those homes, and complies with subdivision (e) and any regulations adopted by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to that subdivision. Any noise standards shall be consistent with local noise ordinances implementing the noise element of the general plan and shall take into consideration the noise level generated by children. The permit issued pursuant to this paragraph **shall be granted** by the zoning administrator, or if there is no zoning administrator by the person or persons designated by the planning agency to grant these permits, **upon the certification without a hearing.**

(3) Require any large family day care home to apply for a permit to use a lot zoned for single-family dwellings. The zoning administrator, or if there is no zoning administrator, the person or persons designated by the planning agency to handle the use permits, shall review and decide the applications. **The use permit shall be granted if the large family day care home complies with local ordinances, if any, prescribing reasonable standards, restrictions, and requirements concerning the following factors: spacing and concentration, traffic control, parking, and noise control** relating to those homes, and complies with subdivision (e) and any regulations adopted by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to that subdivision. Any **noise standards** shall be consistent with local noise ordinances implementing the noise element of the general plan and **shall take into consideration the noise levels generated by children.** The local government shall process any required permit as economically as possible.

Fees charged for review shall not exceed the costs of the review and permit process. An applicant may request a verification of fees, and the city, county, or city and county shall provide the applicant with a written breakdown within 45 days of the request. Beginning July 1, 2007, the application form for large family day care home permits shall include a statement of the applicant's right to request the written fee verification.

Not less than 10 days prior to the date on which the decision will be made on the application, the zoning administrator or person designated to handle the use permits shall give notice of the proposed use by mail or delivery to all owners shown on the last equalized assessment roll as owning real property within a 100-foot radius of the exterior boundaries of the proposed large family day care home. A hearing on the application for a permit issued pursuant to this paragraph shall not be held before a decision is made unless a hearing is requested by the applicant or other affected person. The applicant or other affected person may appeal the decision. The

Planning/Use Permits for Large FCCH (3 options cities & counties can use)

Review/regulation limited to 4 areas of impact

Review/regulation limited to 4 areas of impact

New 2007 re permit fees

Review, approval, notification & hearing process modified; not typical Conditional Use Permit (CUP)

appellant shall pay the cost, if any, of the appeal.

(b) In connection with any action taken pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (a), a city, county, or city and county shall do all of the following:

(1) Upon the request of an applicant, provide a list of the permits and fees that are required by the city, county, or city and county, including information about other permits that may be required by other departments in the city, county, or city and county, or by other public agencies. The city, county, or city and county shall, upon request of any applicant, also provide information about the anticipated length of time for reviewing and processing the permit application.

(2) Upon the request of an applicant, provide information on the breakdown of any individual fees charged in connection with the issuance of the permit.

(3) If a deposit is required to cover the cost of the permit, provide information to the applicant about the estimated final cost to the applicant of the permit, and procedures for receiving a refund from the portion of the deposit not used.

(c) A large family day care home shall not be subject to the provisions of Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code.

(d) Use of a single-family dwelling for the purposes of a large family day care home shall not constitute a change of occupancy for purposes of Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 17910) of Division 13 (State Housing Law), or for purposes of local building and fire codes.

(e) **Large family day care homes shall be considered as single-family residences for the purposes of the State Uniform Building Standards Code and local building and fire codes, except with respect to any additional standards specifically designed to promote the fire and life safety of the children in these homes adopted by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to this subdivision.** The State Fire Marshal shall **adopt separate building standards specifically relating to the subject of fire and life safety in large family day care homes** which shall be published in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. These standards shall apply uniformly throughout the state and shall include, but not be limited to: (1) the requirement that a large family day care home contain a fire extinguisher or smoke detector device, or both, which meets standards established by the State Fire Marshal; (2) specification as to the number of required exits from the home; and (3) specification as to the floor or floors on which day care may be provided. Enforcement of these provisions shall be in accordance with Sections 13145 and 13146. No city, county, city and county, or district shall adopt or enforce any building ordinance or local rule or regulation relating to the subject of fire and life safety in large family day care homes which is inconsistent with those standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal, except to the extent the building ordinance or local rule or regulation applies to single-family residences in which day care is not provided.

(f) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt the building standards required in subdivision (d) and any other regulations necessary to implement this section.

1597.465. A large family day care home may provide care for more than **12 children and up to and including 14 children**, if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) At least one child is enrolled in and attending kindergarten or elementary school and a second child is at least six years of age.

New 2007 re permit fees & process

Large FCCH are R-3 occupancy type (diff. from residential care facilities)

Enrollment of additional 2 school-age in Large FCCH; Consent of property owner

(b) No more than three infants are cared for during any time when more than 12 children are being cared for.

(c) The licensee notifies a parent that the facility is caring for two additional schoolage children and that there may be up to 13 or 14 children in the home at one time.

(d) 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.

1597.47. The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to preclude any city, county, or other local public entity from placing restrictions on building heights, setback, or lot dimensions of a family day care facility **as long as such restrictions are identical to those applied to other single-family residences**. The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to preclude the application to a family day care facility for children of **any local ordinance which deals with health and safety, building standards, environmental impact standards, or any other matter within the jurisdiction of a local public entity**. The provisions of this chapter also shall not be construed to prohibit or restrict the abatement of nuisances by a city, county, or city and county. However, such ordinance or nuisance abatement **shall not distinguish family day care facilities from other single-family dwellings**, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

Other city ordinances, restrictions, etc. that apply to all single-family dwellings can apply to FCCH (e.g. sign ordinance).

1597.531. (a) All family day care homes for children shall maintain in force either **liability insurance** covering injury to clients and guests in the amount of at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per occurrence and three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in the total annual aggregate, sustained on account of the negligence of the licensee or its employees, or a bond in the aggregate amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000). In lieu of the liability insurance or the bond, the family day care home may maintain a file of affidavits signed by each parent with a child enrolled in the home which meets the requirements of this subdivision. The affidavit shall state that the parent has been informed that the family day care home does not carry liability insurance or a bond according to standards established by the state. If the provider does not own the premises used as the family day care home, the affidavit shall also state that the parent has been informed that the liability insurance, if any, of the owner of the property or the homeowners' association, as appropriate, may not provide coverage for losses arising out of, or in connection with, the operation of the family day care home, except to the extent that the losses are caused by, or result from, an action or omission by the owner of the property or the homeowners' association, for which the owner of the property or the homeowners' association would otherwise be liable under the law. These affidavits shall be on a form provided by the department and shall be reviewed at each licensing inspection.

Liability insurance (and options) and relationship to property owner or homeowners' association

(b) A family day care home that maintains liability insurance or a bond pursuant to this section, and that provides care in premises that are rented or leased or uses premises which share common space governed by a homeowners' association, shall name the owner of the property or the homeowners' association, as appropriate, as an additional insured party on the liability insurance policy or bond if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The owner of the property or governing body of the homeowners' association makes a written request to be added as an additional

insured party.

(2) The addition of the owner of the property or the homeowners' association does not result in cancellation or nonrenewal of the insurance policy or bond carried by the family day care home.

(3) Any additional premium assessed for this coverage is paid by the owner of the property or the homeowners' association.

(c) As used in this section, "homeowners' association" means an association of a common interest development, as defined in Section 1351 of the Civil Code.