

Licensed Child Care Facilities

Revised June 21, 2026

Through the Nevada Division of Social Services Child Care Licensing, a state license is required to operate a Child Care Facility. One portion of the licensing requirement includes a fire and life safety inspection. On behalf of the DSS, the Division of the State Fire Marshal or his appointed designee will conduct the initial inspection, and all required subsequent annual inspections. A license issued by the DSS to operate a Child Care Facility is contingent upon a satisfactory fire and life safety inspection and issuance of a Certificate of Compliance.

A special use permit is required to be issued by the local jurisdiction for a Child-care Facility having more than six (6) children.

Definitions

Child Care Facility: A facility operated and maintained for the purpose of furnishing care on a temporary or permanent basis, during the day or overnight, having more than six (6) or more children under 18 years of age, if compensation is received for the care of any of those children. A special use permit is required to be issued by the local jurisdiction. I-4 Use for children less than 2 1/2 years of age and R-4 Use for children 2 1/2 years of age or older. Defined in NAC 432A.060

Child Care Center: Any facility licensed to provide day or night care for more than twelve (12) children, and which is developmentally appropriate for those children. A special use permit is required to be issued by the local jurisdiction. I-4 Use or E Use. Defined in NAC 432A.050

Child Care Institution: A facility which provides care and shelter during the day and night and provides developmental guidance to sixteen (16) or more children, who do not routinely return to the homes of their parents or guardians. A special use permit is required to be issued by the local jurisdiction. I-4 or E Use. Defined in NAC 432A.070

On-site Child Care Facility: A facility which provides care to the children of employees of a business at the place of employment on a temporary or permanent basis, during the day or overnight, to six (6) or more children who are under the age of 18 years and who are not related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to an owner or manager of the business. A special use permit is required to be issued by the local jurisdiction. I-4 or E Use. NAC 432A.024

Family Home: A facility within a residential home licensed to provide care without the presence of parents for at least five (5) but no more than six (6) children. No special use permit is required. R-3 Use. Defined in NAC 432A.100

Group Home: A facility within a residential home licensed to provide care for no less than seven (7) but no more than twelve (12) children. A special use permit is required to be issued by the local jurisdiction. I-4 Use less than 2 1/2 years of age and R-4 Use older than 2 1/2 years of age. Defined in NAC 432A.110

Summary: Child Care Facilities are categorized by licensed capacity and age to determine fire protection requirements for such use.

Licensed Child Care Matrix

Amount	Age	Hours	Comment	Occupancy Classification
More than 6	Less than 2 ½	Less than 24	Child-care Facility	I-4
More than 6	Older than 2 ½	Less than 24	Child-care Facility	R-4
12 or more	Any	Less than 24	Child-care Center	I-4 or E
16 or more	Any	Less than 24	Child-care Institution	I-4 or E
More than 6	Under 18	Less than 24	Onsite Child-care Facility	I-4 or E
5 to 6	Any	Less than 24	Family Home	R-3
7 to 12	Less than 2 ½	Less than 24	Group Home	I-4
7 to 12	Older than 2 ½	Less than 24	Group Home	R-4

Fire Protection Requirements

Use Group	Interconnected Smoke Alarms	Carbon Monoxide Detectors	Fire Alarm System	Fire Sprinkler System	Comments
R-3	Required	Required	Not required	Not required	
R-4	Required	Required	Required	Required	Heat Detectors or Sprinkler Heads in the Attic Space
E	Not required	Less than 30 not required. Over 30 required.	Required greater than 50 occupants	Required over 12,000 square feet	Required sprinkler system between 12am and 6am with 7 or more children
I-4	Not required	Required	Required	Required unless located on level of exit discharge with each room having one direct exterior exit door, then E use	

Egress:

Day care facilities classified as Group R-3, R-4, or I-4 are required to have two or more approved exits when the occupant load is 10 or more.

Group E facilities are required to have two or more approved exits when the occupant load is greater than 49.

Any day care facility that provides care for 10 or more children that are 2 ½ years in age or less are required to have a minimum of 2 approved exits.

Emergency planning:

Every facility is required to have an emergency and evacuation plan in place. The emergency plan is to include the posting of emergency contact numbers. The evacuation plan is required to be posted in a visible location in a public area of the facility.

Each facility is required to conduct a fire drill at least once a month and a natural disaster drill at least once every three months. Records of drills are required to be maintained and available at the site.

Carbon Monoxide alarms:

A single station carbon monoxide alarm is required in Group I and R occupancies located in a building that contains a fuel-burning appliance or have an attached garage. Carbon Monoxide alarms are not required in sleeping units or dwelling units that do not contain a fuel-burning appliance or have an attached garage, but are in a building that contains a fuel-burning appliance or has an attached garage if:

- A. The sleeping or dwelling unit is located more than one story above or below a story which contains a fuel burning appliance or attached garage.
- B. The sleeping or dwelling unit is not connected to the fuel-burning appliance or attached garage by duct work of ventilation.
- C. The building is equipped with a common area carbon monoxide alarm system.

Reference NAC 477.562

- 1) Smoke alarms interconnected with battery. New and replacement smoke alarms must be connected to the building primary electrical power with battery back-up.
- 2) Bathrooms and Closets must be opened from the inside without key or immediately opened from outside with appropriate device
- 3) Portable fire extinguisher(s) 2A-10BC, maximum 75 travel distance, on each level
- 4) Water Heater to be secured (double strapped) and enclosed or separate area
- 5) Electrical outlets are child resistant type or inserts
- 6) Trash and waste baskets non-combustible
- 7) Heaters, fireplaces or similar devices protected from children's contact
- 8) Egress Diagrams
- 9) Street address on building
- 10) Group daycare shall have not less than two remote means of egress
- 11) Fire drills with written drill sheet
- 12) Emergency action plans

Reference NAC 432A.280

- 1) Develop emergency plan
- 2) Develop emergency contact list
- 3) Fire drill monthly
- 4) Natural disaster drill every 3 months
- 5) Annual State of Nevada Fire Marshal Inspection