

Guide to Day Cares

INTRODUCTION

The Douglas County Department of Community Development (DCD) is committed to providing open, transparent application processes to the public. This Guide is provided to assist anyone interested in opening a day care. The information in this packet is a summary of Douglas County regulations in regards to day cares outlined in the Douglas County Zoning Resolution (DCZR).

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DAY CARES AND WHAT CRITERIA MUST BE MET?

Small Day Care Home

A small day care home is a residence in which care is provided for up to six children or adults, including the provider's own children, plus two additional children of school age either before or after school hours, and on days during the regular school year when school is not in session, such as conference days or in-service days and holidays, including summer vacations or off-track periods in year-round schools when the child does not attend classes. If the applicant has an experienced Child Care Provider License, a maximum of nine children may be permitted in accordance with Colorado Department of Human Services regulations for child care facilities. The small day care is permitted in a home as an accessory use in agricultural and residential zoning districts.

Large Day Care Home

A large day care home is a residence in which care and training is provided for seven to 12 children or adults, including the provider's own children, except as provided for above. A use by special review process is necessary in agricultural and residential districts.

Day Care Centers

A day care center is a commercial facility where care and training is provided for children or adults for periods of less than 24 consecutive hours.

Larger day care facilities such as a day care center, preschool, or a large day care home, are allowed in the agricultural and residential zoning districts, only as a use by special review upon approval of the Board of County Commissioners. Day care centers and preschools are a permitted principal use in the Business and Commercial zoning districts.

All Day Care Homes and Centers

Areas zoned as planned developments may have different criteria for what is considered a day care and what is permissible. Check the planned development for the area in which care will be offered to determine what uses are allowed. To find out what the area is zoned, please visit the zoning map online at www.douglas.co.us/zoning or call Douglas County Planning Services at 303-660-7460.

WHEN IS A LICENSE REQUIRED AND HOW DO I GET ONE?

A license from the Division of Childcare under the Colorado Department of Human Services may be required in order to provide day care services depending on the number of children and their age. Please visit the Division of Childcare website at www.cdhs.state.co.us/childcare or contact them at 303-866-5958 for complete licensing requirements and information.

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Step 1

Based on the definitions provided, determine what type of day care services are planned.

Step 2

If it is determined that a use by special review process is necessary, then contact Planning Services staff at 303-660-7460 to discuss the project.

Step 3

Apply for necessary licensing.

