



What is a Group Home?

A group home is a facility that is being used as a supportive living environment for persons who are considered handicapped under State or Federal law. A group home operated by a single operator or service provider (whether licensed or unlicensed) constitutes a single facility, whether the facility occupies one (1) or more dwelling units. Group homes shall not include the following: (1) community care facilities; (2) any group home that operates as a single housekeeping unit.

Group Home Compliance

- Existing group homes shall apply for a group home permit within ninety (90) days of the effective date of the group home regulations. Effective date is October 24, 2019.
- Existing group homes shall have one (1) year from the effective date of the group home regulations to comply with its provisions, provided that any existing group home, which is serving more than six (6) residents shall first comply with the six (6) resident maximum.

Group Home Permits may be denied or revoked based on the following:

- False or misleading information
- Criminal history of any owner/operator or staff person
- Owner/operator accepts residents who are not handicapped (other than the house manager)
- Owner/operator fails to take measures to remove any residents who use alcohol or illegally uses prescription or non-prescriptions drugs.

A group home permit shall expire if the use or activity for which the permit was approved is discontinued or abandoned for a period of six (6) months.

Group Home Requirements

- Group homes with **six (6) or fewer residents** are permitted in any district, planned community, or specific plan area zoned for residential districts with a Group Home Permit. This is a ministerial permit so will be granted if all of the established regulations and requirements are met. Group homes of seven (7) to twelve (12) are not permitted in single-family residential districts.
- Group Homes with **seven (7) to twelve (12) residents** are permitted in any district, planned community, or specific plan area zoned for multifamily residential uses subject to the issuance of a Use Permit by the Planning Commission.

Group Home Permit Applications Must:

- Include information about the owner/operator and the operation.
- Include information on house manager or multiple persons acting as a house manager, who are present at the group home on a 24-hour basis and who will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the group home.
- Comply with all building codes, Codified Ordinances, and the Zoning Code of the County of Orange.

Additional Requirements for Sober Living Homes:

- Sober living homes shall not be within one thousand (1000) feet of any other sober living home or a state licensed and/or certified alcoholism or drug abuse recovery/treatment facility.
- Residents must participate in an off-site recovery program.
- Shall not be located in an accessory dwelling unit unless the primary dwelling unit is used for the same purpose.
- Shall provide an operation plan that includes a process to implement an emergency eviction or involuntary termination of residency in a group home.
- Comply with the following rules and regulations:
 - Prohibit the use of alcohol and non-prescription drugs
 - Comply with sex offender registration
 - Visitors cannot be under the influence of drugs or alcohol
 - Good neighbor policy





How to Apply

Apply for a permit, track permit status, or access a variety of other County services at any time:

myOCeServices.ocgov.com

myOCeServices

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