

What is a Day Care Center?

The City of Omaha Zoning Ordinance, which is applicable to all property within the corporate limits of the City of Omaha and its' three-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction, defines two types of day care services. Limited day care allows care of up to eight (8) individuals. General day care allows care for more than eight (8) individuals. Day care services can be for children or adults, but it is restricted to day time care only.

Do I need any permits or licenses to operate a day care service?

The State of Nebraska requires that anyone caring for four (4) or more children from different families (including the providers own children under age 8) must be license.

Limited day care is permitted in residential neighborhoods. General day care facilities are more commercial in their operation and require a use permit in most residential areas.

Any day care facility for eight (8) or more children must meet the minimum building code regulations and receive a certificate of occupancy from the City Permits and Inspections Division.

Do I have to get a building permit to open a day care center?

In some cases building permits will be necessary. Any general day care center

must comply with regulations for fire safety, storm shelter, handicapped accessibility, plumbing, electrical, mechanical and building codes of the City. Any work to change the plumbing, electrical, mechanical or building to meet these standards will require construction permits. All general day care facilities must be inspected by Permits and Inspections and the Fire Marshall in order to receive a certificate of occupancy.

Can I have employees?

Limited day care facilities, operated as a home occupation, cannot have employees other than residents of the home. All other day care facilities may have employees. The State of Nebraska has established standards on the minimum number of employees needed to provide day care service. These are based on the number and age of the persons receiving care.

How much parking must I provide?

The City requires that one (1) parking space for every four (4) persons licensed capacity must be accessible from the street and comply with the City's parking lot standards. In all cases it must have a paved, hard surface.

Can I have a sign?

Signs for limited day care can be no more than two (2) square feet and must

be attached to the wall of the house. General day care centers may have a wall or monument sign up to 32 square feet in area. Signs in non-residential areas are limited to the size and location allowed by the zoning district and must be installed by a licensed sign erector.

Who should I contact for more details on day care centers?

Nebraska Department of Social Services:
Limited Day Care (402) 595-3452
General Day Care (402) 595-2665
Omaha City Planning:
Zoning (402) 444-5214
(402) 444-5212
Permits & Inspections . . . (402) 444-5378

Note: If you are planning to start a general day care center, it is recommended that you meet with the Planning Department staff. They will be able to tell you what specific regulations you must meet for your facility. Before meeting with the staff, you should prepare a site plan.

The site plan should be drawn to scale with dimensions, showing the property and all improvements, including the building, parking and play area. You should also provide a floor plan of the facility.

DAY CARE FACILITY INFORMATION



City of Omaha
Planning Department
Current Planning Division
Omaha/Douglas Civic Center
1819 Farnam Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68183-0114

