

For More Information

Additional information may be found using the Department of Health's website. If you have access to a computer and the Internet, please try the following websites:

www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/facility/group/index.html

www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/facility/food/index.html

www.myflorida.com/index.html

Please contact your local health department environmental health section for more information about the Group Care Program. Other primary group care state-licensing agencies that may be of assistance are listed below.

Florida State Government

www.myflorida.com/

Agency for Health Care Administration—AHCA

www.fdhc.state.fl.us/

Department of Children and Families—DCF

www.state.fl.us/cf_web/

Department of Education—DOE

www.firn.edu/doe/edfacil/

Department of Elder Affairs—DEA

elderaffairs.state.fl.us/

Department of Juvenile Justice—DJJ

www.djj.state.fl.us/index.html



Residential

G R O U P C A R E



Bureau of Facility Program
Florida Department of Health
DH 150-636,1/02





workers, and visitors at the facility. These inspections help ensure the facility conforms to basic standards relating to health, safety, and hygiene.

What is a residential group care facility?

A residential facility provides housing, food service and one or more personal services for a period exceeding 24 hours. The list below provides examples of some of these types of facilities.

- § **Adult Family Care Homes—AFCH**
- § **Assisted Living Facilities—ALF**
- § **Child Caring Agencies**
- § **Foster Homes**
- § **Hospice**
- § **Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled—ICFDD**
- § **Alcohol, Drug Treatment & Mental Health Centers—(In-patient only)**
- § **Transitional Living Facility**

Inspection Frequency

The county health department inspector will visit the facility at least once each year to conduct a group care inspection. The group care inspection is conducted in cooperation with other state-licensing agencies monitoring the facility. A few of the state-licensing agencies are the Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Children and Families, Department of Education, Department of Elder Affairs, and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Inspections

There are several environmental elements evaluated at a facility. In general, the housing provided must be clean, sanitary, and kept free of offensive odors. Other areas of the facility that will be examined are the general facility up keep, light levels, food service, restrooms, heating,

cooling, and ventilation. All of these items must be kept in good repair, be safe, and in working condition as designed. The list below outlines some of the areas that the county health inspector will evaluate.

Housing	Housekeeping
Food Service	Water Supply
Outdoors/Safety	Vermin Control
Solid Waste	Laundry

Complaints

Complaints received by the health department dealing with environmental health and safety concerns will be investigated. When the complaint is outside the health department's inspection authority, it will be forwarded to the proper state-licensing agency for investigation.

Regulations

Residential group care inspections are performed using the standards in Chapter 64E-12 of the Florida Administrative Code. A copy can be obtained by contacting the local health department or on the Internet at <http://fac.dos.state.fl.us/>.

Selecting a Residential Facility

When choosing a facility, check to see that the facility has a current license to operate. It is recommended that you review the environmental health group care and food hygiene inspections prior to selecting a facility. The facility's primary licensing agency should be contacted and the licensing file and any previously made complaints reviewed as well. This will provide information regarding the facility's compliance history. It is suggested to periodically stop by unannounced and check the facility. This should assist you in gaining a better understanding of how the facility operates in their day-to-day activities.

Residential Group Care

The Department of Health, reaching out to promote safe, sanitary, and healthy living in a residential environment.

Purpose

This program is designed to protect the public from environmental dangers that may cause illness or injury, when they are in care at a residential setting outside of their home.

County Health Department

Your local health department administers many different state public health programs. The environmental health section conducts basic safety and health inspections at a variety of facilities. There are over 13,000 residential group care facilities in Florida that are inspected by county health departments. The purpose of the residential group care inspection is to decrease the risk of disease transmission and injury to residents,