



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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December 18, 2014

CCL INFORMATION RELEASE NO. 2014-01

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Initiated by CCL

TO: CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM STAFF

SUBJECT: **RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH SHELTERS INTERIM STANDARDS (ASSEMBLY BILL 346)**

On January 1, 2014, Assembly Bill 346 (Chapter 485, Statutes of 2013) went into effect, establishing a new subcategory of Group Homes (GH) called Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelters (RHYS), to be licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) and added a statutory definition for the term "group home," to Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code.

AB 346 was cosponsored by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish a uniform licensing standard that provides basic health and safety protections for homeless and runaway youth while recognizing that runaway and homeless youth shelters serve a population distinct from that served by other group homes.

Previously, there was no specific licensing requirement for shelters serving runaway youth and homeless youth. Shelters were either licensed as group homes, with waivers, or not at all. Neither approach was ideal. The group home regulations, while appropriate for foster children placed in group care, include requirements that presented barriers for a facility providing temporary housing and basic personal services to transient youth voluntarily seeking shelter. Being unlicensed made other facilities less competitive when seeking federal grant money, a key source of income for many shelters.

AB 346 is intended is to strike a balance between removing regulatory barriers while still insuring adequate health and safety protections for the runaway youth and homeless youth who seek out a shelter's services.

CCLD has developed the attached draft interim standards in consultation with stakeholders, which implement Health and Safety Code Section 1502.35, using the existing group home regulatory framework while adapting and exempting some Group Home (22 CCR §84000, et. seq.) and General Licensing (22 CCR 80000, et. seq.) regulations that are inconsistent with the purpose of this subcategory and the needs of the unique population of youth it is designed to serve.

Highlights of the RHYS Interim Standards:

- A RHYS provides short-term shelter and services to runaway youth and homeless youth who voluntarily enter the facility. A youth cannot stay at a RHYS for more than 21 consecutive days from the date of admission.
- A RHYS serves youth 12 to 17 years of age, inclusive, or 18 and completing high school or its equivalent, who are in need of services and without a place of shelter (homeless youth), or who have run away from their home or place of legal residence without the permission of a parent, legal guardian, or foster parent (runaway youth).
- Youth who seek services at a RHYS agree to abide by the shelter's house rules.
- A RHYS shall have a staff to youth ratio of 1:8, and may count volunteers in the ratio if the volunteer has completed the same training and other requirements as paid staff and a paid staff person is present while the volunteer is on duty.
- A RHYS is not required to maintain a needs and services plan, as defined in 22 CCR §84001.
- An assessment is not required for admission, however, a RHYS must assess runaway youth and homeless youth served within 72 hours.
- A RHYS is permitted to utilize two-tier bunk beds and may have bedrooms that accommodate more than two youth.
- A RHYS is not a placement option for dependent or probation children, nor eligible for an AFDC-FC rate from CDSS.

The interim standards are posted on the CCLD website at <http://cclid.ca.gov/> and will remain in effect until the adoption of formal regulations for the RHYS subcategory. Also attached to this letter is an abbreviated overview of how to obtain a RHYS license.

If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Owensby, Manager of the Children's Residential Policy Unit, at (916) 651-5084.

Sincerely,

Original signed by PAMELA DICKFOSS

PAMELA DICKFOSS
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Attachment(s): [Interim Licensing Standards](#)
How to Obtain a License, RHYS Overview

**New Group Home
Sub-category:**

***Runaway and
Homeless Youth
Shelter***

[Assembly Bill 346 \(Stone\),
Chapter 485, Statutes of 2013](#)

Effective January 1, 2014, California law established a runaway and homeless youth shelter (RHYS) as a subcategory of group home.

[Health and Safety Code section 1502.35](#) requires the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services to license a RHYS as a subcategory of group homes and specifies the requirements that apply only to a RHYS.

Except as otherwise provided by law, all licensing requirements for a group home also apply to a RHYS.

HOW TO OBTAIN A RHYS LICENSE

This document is intended to provide operators of a RHYS with general guidance on how to obtain a license from CCLD.

Step One: Orientation

(Component I) Prior to filing a license application, you must attend an orientation for prospective group home licensees provided by the licensing agency. CCLD is in

the process of arranging orientations throughout the state specifically for this subcategory. Additional information regarding these orientations will be forthcoming. Orientations will help operators of a RHYS be better prepared to complete their application.

Step Two: Application

After attending the orientation, the prospective licensee must submit an application and all required supporting documents to CCLD. For assistance filling out these documents, please see CCLD's [Application Instruction Booklet](#), which contains a list of, and hyperlinks to, the forms required, along with detailed instructions.

Please see page 2 of the booklet; note that all of the items listed are required for a group home application except for Item A9.A, Budget Information.

The application, including all required supporting documentation and the application fee, must be submitted to CCLD as a single packet. Forms must be completely filled out with original signatures where required. If any of the documentation is incomplete, CCLD will return the entire application packet to the applicant. See Notice of Incomplete Application ([LIC 184](#)).

FEE: The fee varies according to the size of your facility: \$1,815 for a facility for 16 to 25 youth; \$1,363 for a facility for 7 to 15 youth; \$908 for a facility for four to six youth; and \$454 for a facility for one to three youth. See [Annual Fee Schedule](#).

Step Three: Review and Approval

(Component II) CCLD reviews the application, including all supporting documentation, and then schedules an in-person interview with the prospective licensee to discuss the application, resolve any questions, and determine whether the facility is capable of providing the services specified for a RHYS.

(Component III) CCLD then schedules a meeting to review continuing requirements.

During the application process, CCLD conducts a pre-licensing inspection to ensure physical plant compliance.

Finally, if your application meets all required standards for licensure (including, but not limited to, a fire clearance, criminal record clearances, and physical plant compliance) and there are no outstanding issues, CCLD will issue a license.

BE ADVISED THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT A COMPLETE OVERVIEW OF THE LICENSING PROCESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE [LOCAL REGIONAL OFFICE](#).