

Guide to Online State Oversight Agency Information on California Approved Out of State Children’s Residential Facilities

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the state licensing and oversight agency for community care facilities that provide residential care and supervision for children and youth, maintains two websites through its Community Care Licensing (CCL) division with information on out-of-state facilities. The “Out-of-State Group Homes Certifications and Annual Reports” page contains summary certification and program information about out-of-state facilities. CCL also maintains a transparency website with a search function that allows visitors to look up in-state and out-of-state facilities by facility type, name, number, or county. Children in California’s foster care and juvenile justice system may not be placed in a facility unless it has been approved or licensed by CCL. For out-of-state facilities CCL must certify annually that the facility meets California’s licensing standards for children’s residential community care facilities.

I. Out-of-State Facility Approval Certifications and Annual Reports

CDSS’ Out-of-State Group Homes Certifications and Annual Reports page, <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Childrens-Residential/Resources-for-Providers/Facility-Information/Certification-and-Annual-Reports> provides facility certification, licensing, and program information. Facilities are arranged alphabetically with a list of posted documents for each facility. These documents consist of the initial and subsequent annual certification reports for each facility and may include STRTP conversion certification and psychotropic medication inspection reports. The most recent annual certification report provides summary information about the facility’s mission, program, capacity, treatment protocols, and physical plant, as well as the licensing and complaint history of the facility.



The screenshot shows the CDSS Social Services website. The header includes the CDSS logo and the text "Social Services". The main heading is "Out-of-State Group Homes Certification and Annual Reports". Below this, there is a paragraph explaining the role of the Out-of-State Certification Unit. A note states that the page is updated routinely and recommends searching the transparency website for the most current published reports. The page lists three facilities with their respective certification and inspection reports:

- Cathedral Home for Children - Laramie, Wyoming**
 - [Annual March 2018](#)
 - [Annual March 2017](#)
 - [Annual Extended January 2017](#)
 - [Initial Certification February 2016](#)
- Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center - St George, Utah**
 - [SB 484 Psychotropic Medication Inspection 2018](#)
 - [Annual November 2017](#)
 - [Annual Extended August 2017](#)
 - [Annual September 2017](#)
 - [Annual April 2016](#)
 - [Initial Certification September 2014](#)
- Clarinda Academy - Clarinda, Iowa**

Detailed information about CCL licensing and complaint investigations and actions is available by searching a facility’s records on the transparency website for all community care licensed facilities.

II. Transparency Website – Facility Search

CCL maintains a transparency website with a facility search function to find licensing agency actions (e.g. inspections, complaint investigations, citations) for all community care facilities, including approved out-of-state facilities.

Search for Facilities. A search can be performed using a few simple steps:

1. Go to <https://secure.dss.ca.gov/CareFacilitySearch/>
2. Select “24 Hour Residential Care for Children” and then “Children’s Residential Out-of-State Group Homes” from the drop down menu for a list of all facilities or type in the facility’s name to go directly to a specific facility
3. Click “view” next to the name of the facility to display the “Facility Detail” section.

Facility Detail

This section provides an overview of the licensing agency information about the facility and can be viewed online or an email summary can be requested. To receive an email summarizing the “Facility Detail” page (facility information, CCL contact information, number of CCL visits and visit dates, number of complaints and citations, and investigation results) click the “Email Facility Info” below the licensing office’s contact information. Type in your email address, click enter, and you should immediately receive an email with the Facility Detail summary.

All Visits, Citations, Complaints, Inspections, Other Visits and Reports. Click on these tabs to find reports on CCL visits and licensing enforcement actions.

The screenshot shows the 'Facility Detail' page. At the top, there is a 'Stay Updated' button and the status 'Licensed' with a license date. Below this, the facility's address, licensee name, phone number, facility number (114), capacity, and facility type (OUT OF STATE GROUP HOME) are listed. A section for 'State Licensing Office Contact Information' provides the address (744 P STREET, MS 8-3-54, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814) and phone number (916) 651-5380. At the bottom, there are navigation tabs for 'All Visits', 'Citations', 'Inspections', 'Complaints', 'Other Visits', and 'Reports'. The 'All Visits' tab is active, showing 6 visits with dates: 11/07/2017, 07/12/2016, 07/30/2015, 04/23/2014, 06/07/2013, and 05/09/2013. A blue arrow points from the 'All Visits' tab to the visit details.

Electronic CCL Facility Updates.

To monitor a particular facility, subscribe to CCL updates. Click the link that reads “Stay Updated” on the “Facility Detail” page. Enter your email address to subscribe to weekly alerts and updates about the facility.

Offline Information. Additional information about an approved out-of-state facility may be obtained by contacting the State Licensing Office in Sacramento (or for in-state facilities contact the regional office responsible for that facility noted on the “Facility Detail” page). The contact

information for the relevant licensing office can be found on the “Facility Detail” page, including an address and a phone number for the office.

Under development. CDSS is developing a new transparency website that will contain more extensive facility information including provider performance and youth outcome measures. The new website is expected to be fully operational by 2020. Until then, the Annual Reports page provides the most comprehensive information about out-of-state facilities.