

Behavioral Health Licensing  
BUILDING AND SAFETY  
ISSUES

Presented By:

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Licensing of Behavioral Health  
Facilities

- Behavioral health facilities are divided into five main categories:
  - Inpatient
  - Residential
  - Transitional
  - Outpatient
  - Adult Therapeutic Foster Care Homes - care for 3 or fewer residents

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Licensees

- Level 1 Sub-Acute – Inpatient Agency
- Level 1 Residential Treatment Centers
- Level 1 Specialized Transitional Agency
  - ❖ The Arizona Community Protection and Treatment Center
- Level 2 Behavioral Health Residential Agency
- Level 3 Behavioral Health Residential Agency

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## Licensees

- Level 4 Transitional Agency
- Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence
- Rural Substance Abuse Transitional Agency
- Outpatient Clinic



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## Licensing of Behavioral Health Agencies

Behavioral health facilities are licensed according to the level of care and services needed by the client.



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## Levels of Care

### Level 1 Sub-acute Agency

- An inpatient treatment that provides continuous treatment to an individual experiencing a behavioral health issue that causes the individual:
  - To have a limited or reduced ability to meet the individual's basic physical and age-appropriate needs;
  - To be a danger to self, a danger to others, or gravely disabled; or
  - To suffer severe and abnormal mental, emotional, or physical harm that impairs judgment, reason, behavior, or capacity to recognize reality.



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**Levels of Care**  
**Level 1 Sub-acute Agency**

- The facility must meet the fire safety requirements of the local jurisdiction.
- Requires a fire alarm system and an automatic sprinkler system.
- Depending on the level of acuity of the clients, environmental standards are required to protect the health, safety and welfare of the client.
- Depending on the level of acuity of the client, the facility may be a secure.



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**Levels of Care**  
**Level 1 Residential Treatment Center**

- An inpatient treatment program that provides treatment to an individual under the age of 21 who needs inpatient psychiatric services.



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**Levels of Care**  
**Level 1 Residential Treatment Center**

- The facility must meet the fire safety requirements of the local jurisdiction.
- Requires a fire alarm system and an automatic sprinkler system.
- Depending on the level of acuity of the clients, environmental standards are required to protect the health, safety and welfare of the client.
- Depending on the level of acuity of the client, the facility may be a secure facility.



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**Levels of Care**  
**Level 1 Specialized Transitional Agency**  
The Arizona Community Protection and Treatment Center

- An inpatient treatment program that provides treatment to an individual determined to be a sexually violent person according to A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 37.



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**Levels of Care**  
**Level 1 Specialized Transitional Agency**  
The Arizona Community Protection and Treatment Center

- The facility must meet the fire safety requirements of the local jurisdiction.
- Requires a fire alarm system and an automatic sprinkler system.
- The facility is a secured facility.
- During transportation of clients the facility must maintain sufficient staff members to meet the health, safety, and security needs of the client, other individuals, and the community.



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**Levels of Care**  
**Level 2 Behavioral Health Residential Agency**

- A residential agency that provides continuous treatment and general supervision to an individual who is experiencing behavioral health issues that limits the individual's independence. The individual is able to participate in all aspects of treatment, as well as, be able to meet the individual's basic physical needs.



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**Levels of Care**  
Level 2 Behavioral Health Residential Agency

- The facility must meet the fire safety requirements of the local jurisdiction.
- If the agency is licensed for between four and eight clients who are able to evacuate the facility in three minutes or less, the facility must have a sprinkler system or a fire alarm system that includes:
  - A manual-pull fire alarm
  - Automatic occupancy notification
  - A smoke or fire detection system
  - Notification of a local emergency response team.

  
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**Levels of Care**  
Level 2 Behavioral Health Residential Agency

- If the agency is licensed for between four and eight clients who are unable to evacuate the facility in three minutes or less, or if the agency is a secure facility, the facility must have a sprinkler system.
- If the agency is licensed for nine or more clients, the facility must have a sprinkler system.

  
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**Levels of Care**  
Level 3 Behavioral Health Residential Agency

- A residential agency that provides continuous protective oversight and treatment to an individual who is able to participate in all aspects of treatment, and is able to meet basic physical and age-appropriate needs; however, who needs treatment to maintain or enhance independence.

  
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**Levels of Care**  
**Level 3 Behavioral Health Residential Agency**

- The facility must meet the fire safety requirements of the local jurisdiction.
- If the agency is licensed for between four and eight clients who are able to evacuate the facility in three minutes or less, the facility must have a sprinkler system or a fire alarm system that includes:
  - A manual-pull fire alarm
  - Automatic occupancy notification
  - A smoke or fire detection system
  - Notification of a local emergency response team.

  
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**Levels of Care**  
**Level 3 Behavioral Health Residential Agency**

- If the agency is licensed for between four and eight clients who are unable to evacuate the facility in three minutes or less, or if the agency is a secure facility, the facility must have a sprinkler system.
- If the agency is licensed for nine or more clients, the facility must have a sprinkler system.

  
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**Level 4 Transitional Agencies**

1. Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence
2. Rural Substance Abuse Transitional Centers
3. Transitional Agencies

  
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Levels of Care  
Level 4 Transitional Agency

- An agency that provides accommodations where a client receives:
  - Support to assist the client in managing a crisis situation, or
  - An opportunity to enhance the client's independent living skills.



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Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence

- A facility that provides temporary housing or facilities to family or household members who are victims of domestic violence.



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Rural Substance Abuse Transitional Center

- An agency located in a county with a population of fewer than 500,000 individuals according to the most recent U.S. decennial census, that provides behavioral health services to an individual who is intoxicated or has a substance abuse problem.



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**Level 4 Transitional Agencies**

- The facility must meet the fire safety requirements of the local jurisdiction.
- If the agency is licensed for between four and eight clients who are able to evacuate the facility in three minutes or less, the facility must have a sprinkler system or a fire alarm system that includes:
  - A manual-pull fire alarm
  - Automatic occupancy notification
  - A smoke or fire detection system
  - Notification of a local emergency response team.



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**Level 4 Transitional Agencies**

- If the agency is licensed for between four and eight clients who are unable to evacuate the facility in three minutes or less, or if the agency is a secure facility, the facility must have a sprinkler system.
- If the agency is licensed for nine or more clients, the facility must have a sprinkler system.



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**Outpatient Clinic**

- An agency that provides treatment to a client for less than 24 consecutive hours.



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**Outpatient Clinic**

- Outpatient clinic are required to be physically from residential, inpatient and transitional facilities.
- The facility must meet the fire safety requirements of the local jurisdiction.

  
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**Adult Therapeutic Foster Care Homes (ATFH)**

- ATFHs provides behavioral health services and ancillary services to at least one and no more than three adults where the clients live in the home and are integrated into the family of the individuals providing the services.

  
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**Adult Therapeutic Foster Care Homes (ATFH)**

- The facility must meet the fire safety requirements of the local jurisdiction.

  
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If an agency was licensed before July 2003:

- The facility must have a sprinkler system or a fire alarm system that includes:
  - A manual-pull fire alarm
  - Automatic occupancy notification
  - A smoke or fire detection system
  - Notification of a local emergency response team.



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### Levels of Care: Implications for Building/Zoning Officials

- The Department will not license a facility unless the licensee is in compliance with all local, state and federal codes.



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- If the agency was licensed before July 2003, the facility must have a sprinkler system or a fire alarm system that includes:
  - A manual-pull fire alarm
  - Automatic occupancy notification
  - A smoke or fire detection system
  - Notification of a local emergency response team.



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### Plan of Correction

An acceptable Plan of Correction (POC) MUST include at a minimum:

1. How the deficiency is to be corrected, on both a temporary and a permanent basis.
2. The date the correction is/will be implemented.
3. The name, title, and/or position of the person responsible for the correction.
4. A description of the monitoring system used to prevent the deficiency from recurring.
5. The licensee's signature, and the date that person approved the POC.



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### Online Resources

- [www.azcarecheck.com](http://www.azcarecheck.com)
- Searchable database of providers
- Statements of Deficiencies
  - Includes complaints and compliance surveys
  - Includes dates deficiencies corrected
- Enforcement actions



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### QUESTIONS

Phoenix main: 602-364-2595  
Fax: 602-364-4801

Tucson main: 520-628-6965  
Fax: 520-628-6991

– [www.azdhs.gov/bhl/hcb](http://www.azdhs.gov/bhl/hcb)

Thank-you



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