

SOBER LIVING HOMES



What are sober living homes?

Sober living homes are a type of group home functioning as a facility, offering a drug- and alcohol-free environment to help residents transition from rehabilitation to independent living in a residential, community environment.

Ordinance No. 1607

Adopted March 1, 2024, this ordinance established new regulations for group homes that require:

- The acquisition of use permits for operating facilities
- A six-resident maximum
- 650 ft of separation between sober living homes or state licensed alcoholism or drug abuse recovery/treatment facilities (measured from the closest property lines)

Compliance and enforcement

The City of Fountain Valley is committed to code compliance and enforcement throughout the community. Sober living homes not licensed by the state have one year from the ordinance adoption to come into code compliance before enforcement action is taken.

Alcohol and substance abuse disorders affect a person's ability to live their daily lives and function within society. We encourage residents to extend empathy and consideration for persons in or seeking recovery from drug or alcohol addiction.

REPORTING CODE VIOLATIONS

Please include the address of the facility and the activity observed



714-593-4444



CodeEnforcement@fountainvalley.gov



Online complaint: bit.ly/FVforms



**Learn more about
sober living homes in
Fountain Valley**



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a sober living facility and a group home?

Sober living facilities are a type of group home.

What is a Special Use Permit?

A special use permit allows a particular use of land for a defined period of time. They are required for certain uses in certain zones, or for activities that could have a negative impact on the surrounding area. They are often subject to conditions to ensure they are compatible with the surrounding area. To submit a Special Use Permit for a sober living home, visit bit.ly/FVsoberliving.

What happens one year after the adoption of Ordinance No. 1607 when all sober living homes are expected to be compliant?

The city has a list of known sober living homes and their state of compliance. On March 1, 2025, the city will initiate code enforcement through its Code Enforcement Officers.

What can the city enforce?

The city's governance over sober living homes is limited to enforcing applicable Municipal, Zoning and Building Codes; and State Penal Code statutes. Fountain Valley is regulating sober living homes by enacting ordinances that require a certain distance between homes, limit the number of residents, and place reasonable standards for their operation.