

Villa Infantil Regulation Compliance Fact Sheet

The purpose of this sheet to bring forward questions and answers regarding how Villa Infantil, an orphanage located in San Pedro Tesistan on the south side of Lake Chapala, is working to comply with state regulations and what areas of need still exist. These questions were answered by Madre Maria who is in charge of the Villa.

Q: Who are the regulators? Are they state or federal?

A: The Regulators are from the State of Jalisco

Q: Why are all these issues coming up now. What about past inspections?

A: This is the first state inspection of this type to address fire safety, emergency exits, record keeping and the like.

Q: Approximately when was the inspection done?

A: The state inspection was done in early July 2011.

Q: What is the time frame for meeting/fulfilling the regulations requirements?

A: According to Madre the deadline for compliance is November 28, 2011. Since the State presented their list of compliance issues, there has been a surprise visit from a state inspector. The inspector observed the changes that have been made and that are in progress.

Q: What are the regulations that need to be met?

A: There is a list of thirty line items, 28 originally and two added later on. Several of the items on the list are administrative and have already been addressed and are now in compliance with the regulations.

Some of the physical changes that need to be made to the casitas where the children live are underway. For example, the exterior window sills are being trimmed so that there is no chance for a child to injure themselves if they happen to run up against the building.

Another compliance requirement that is underway is that a nutritionist has evaluated the children and determined each child's individual needs, so this is started and will be ongoing.

The regularly scheduled services of a psychologist are required. A local psychologist has made a commitment, and also a donor will pay the \$4,000 pesos for the first month of service.

Some of the items on the list do require substantial amounts of money, and donations are needed to make the needed changes. The six exit doors, two doors for each casita, need to be replaced so that they can be easily opened with a push bar. \$49,500 pesos will cover three of the emergency related line items on the compliance list: Six replacement emergency exit doors, a panic alarm sensor system for each casita and five fire extinguishers.

Q What is the volunteer organization, the Friends of Villa Infantil doing to help Madre and the Villa comply with the regulations?

A: The FOVI is working closely with Madre to resolve the regulation compliance issues. Friends of Villa Infantil is the organized group that administers the sponsor a child program, and holds major fundraising events activities. Members of the group bring lunch for the children to the Villa on a regular basis, currently two days a week.

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Q Is anyone else helping?

There are additional volunteers who individually and in groups are making donations or performing services. For example a local fumigation service provides its work, a requirement for compliance, for free. Other examples are visitors who often stop by and make a donation. Some visitors return on a regular basis, either weekly, monthly or annually.

The owners of Casa de Las Flores in Ajijic have a collection site for donations at their B&B, and make other significant donations themselves.

Whether you join in with the FOVI group or make an individual effort, all help and donations are greatly appreciated by Madre Maria and the other Sisters at the Villa Infantil.

Q: How can I help the Villa in this current crisis?

A: Having to comply with a long list of regulations by a set date, or else face being shut down by the state, is a crisis that is different from the Villa's other times of urgent need. Meeting the state's conditions and regulations is do-able. Donations are needed to help Madre Maria make the changes needed, before the November 28, 2011 deadline.

The state is increasing their oversight of the physical safety and the overall well being of the children at the Villa Infantil. Of course that is wonderful, as we all want the children to be safe and have all their needs met.

Attached is the full list of items. As costs become known, they will be posted. As regulations are met, we will also update this sheet. As shown on the sheet, these requirements are being taken very seriously and the Villa is working very hard to be in compliance for the deadline.

Cash and Check Donations can be made by contacting **Friends of Villa Infantil** at info@friendsofvillainfantil.org or through Credit Card at **Foundation for Lake Chapala Charities** <http://www.lakechapalacharities.org/> by using their PayPal account. **Please** be sure to specify when donating either way that your donation is for *Regulations Compliance*

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1 and 2. These were administrative and have already been met.

#3 Services of a Psychologist 4 hours a day Monday-Friday. Madre received a clarification on this. The services of the Psychologist can be performed at his/her office and/or at the Villa rather than being on staff as originally required. Madre has a commitment from a local Psychologist and also a donor who will pay the 4,000 pesos for the first month of service. **ONGOING ARRANGEMENT MEETS COMPLIANCE**

#4 Services of a Medical Doctor (again, not necessarily on staff) but available 24/7. **ONGOING ARRANGEMENT MEETS COMPLIANCE**

#5 Services of a Social Worker **ONGOING ARRANGEMENT MEETS COMPLIANCE**

#6 Administrative - Documentation - **COMPLETED**.

#7 Administrative - Manuals - already taken care of. **COMPLETED**

#8 Administrative - employment descriptions for staff **COMPLETED**.

#9 Services of a Nurse - No schedule given for this requirement. However, Madre does have a commitment from a Nurse in San Cristobal who will help on this. **ONGOING ARRANGEMENT MEETS COMPLIANCE**

#10 Nutritionist – There has been a visit and dietary changes have been suggested for some of the children. This is off to a good start and some of what the group has done so far has been free of charge, but money will be needed on an on-going basis. **ONGOING ARRANGEMENT MEETS COMPLIANCE**

#11 Separate administrative offices/reception area/waiting room for private consultations Construction has begun to make the necessary space **IN PROCESS**.

#12 Smoke Alarms **COMPLETED**

#13 - Fire awareness, protection and on-going inspection - Fire Department will take care of this. **COMPLETED**

#14 – Emergency Lighting – **COMPLETED**

#15 Fire extinguishers - **COMPLETED**

#16 Panic Alarm sensor system for each casita at a cost of 11,400 pesos purchased. **FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL INSTALL**

#17 Smoke detectors/Fire Alarms, .. **COMPLETED**

#18 Nutrition information for each child. The group came up with individual needs for each child, etc. so this is started and will be on-going

#19 Thermometers for all refrigerators and freezers **COMPLETED**

#20 Temperature regulators for all refrigerators and freezers **COMPLETED**

#21 Upgraded filter system for water from well and any other water source. **COMPLETED**

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#22 Fumigation service - Madre already has a local company who provides this service at no charge. **COMPLETED**

#23 Removal of all storage boxes, large toys, unnecessary furniture from the childrens' bedrooms so that they have clear access to exit the building in case of an emergency. **COMPLETED**

#24 Emergency doors - the sliding glass doors that lead from the play room off the corridor in each casita and into the laundry area are too heavy for a child to open in the event of an emergency. These doors have to be replaced with doors that have a push bar. **COMPLETED**

#25 Secondary emergency doors – **NO LONGER REQUIRED**

#26 List of emergency numbers posted in all casitas and outside buildings - **COMPLETED**.

#27 Emergency fire drill training - every 2 months. **Ongoing by Fire Department**

#28 Copper piping/installation needed from gas tanks to Villa buildings and system with key shutoff capability and written instructions for emergency disconnection of gas, electricity, water, etc. Caretaker is familiar with the layout of these services so he will take care of this. Cost 840 pesos. **COMPLETED**

#29 - This wasn't in the original list of regulations, but the investigators told Madre that all the windowsills have to be removed because they jut out and are at a level where children running past the windows could get injured. **COMPLETED**

#30 - Also not on the list but given to Madre as a requirement - the steps outside the small doors, which will become the secondary emergency doors, have to be removed and a ramp put in so that the children will have a clear shot to the outside once they exit through the secondary emergency doors. **COMPLETED**