

Summary: Zoning Code Definition of *Family Study*



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Background

The Zoning Code's definition of family regulates occupancy in a dwelling unit based on number and relatedness of its occupants. The current definition is outdated and is being updated by the Dept. of Planning and Economic Development.

Existing Regulation (Section 60.207)

Family. One (1) or two (2) persons or parents, with their direct lineal descendants and adopted or legally cared for children (and including the domestic employees thereof) together with not more than two (2) persons not so related, living together in the whole or part of a dwelling comprising a single housekeeping unit. Every additional group of four (4) or fewer persons living in such housekeeping unit shall be considered a separate family for the purpose of this code.

The Problem

1. This definition **limits households that don't closely conform to the "nuclear family"** of two parents and their linearly-related children. In addition to nuclear family households, Saint Paul's population includes:
 - people of cultural traditions and/or multigenerational households consisting of members who may not be related by blood, marriage, or adoption, including vulnerable elders and children;
 - temporary workers, immigrants, post-graduate college students, and others in transitional phases of life that require unique housing options.
2. This definition is **at risk of being discriminatory or arbitrary** (2017 Addendum to the 2014 Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice).

Benefits of Updating

1. Increase compliance with the Federal Fair Housing Act and amendments
2. Better reflect and legalize larger household customs
3. Allow cost-burdened households greater access to affordable housing opportunities

One of the following will be chosen:

OPTION 1 "Any Six"

Six (6) or fewer adults, together with minor children in their care, living as a single housekeeping unit.

OPTION 2 "Family or five"

Five (5) or fewer adults, or any number of adults who are all related to each other by blood, marriage, guardianship, or domestic partnership as defined by Chapter 186 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code, together with minor children in their care, living as a single housekeeping unit.

OPTION 3 "Family plus four"

Any number of adults who are all related to each other by blood, marriage, guardianship, or domestic partnership as defined by Chapter 186 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code and up to four (4) additional adults, together with minor children in their care, living as a single housekeeping unit.

ALL OPTIONS

- Permit any number of occupants under 18 years old.
- Retain the maximum of four students in a student dwelling in the SH Student Housing Neighborhood Overlay Impact District.