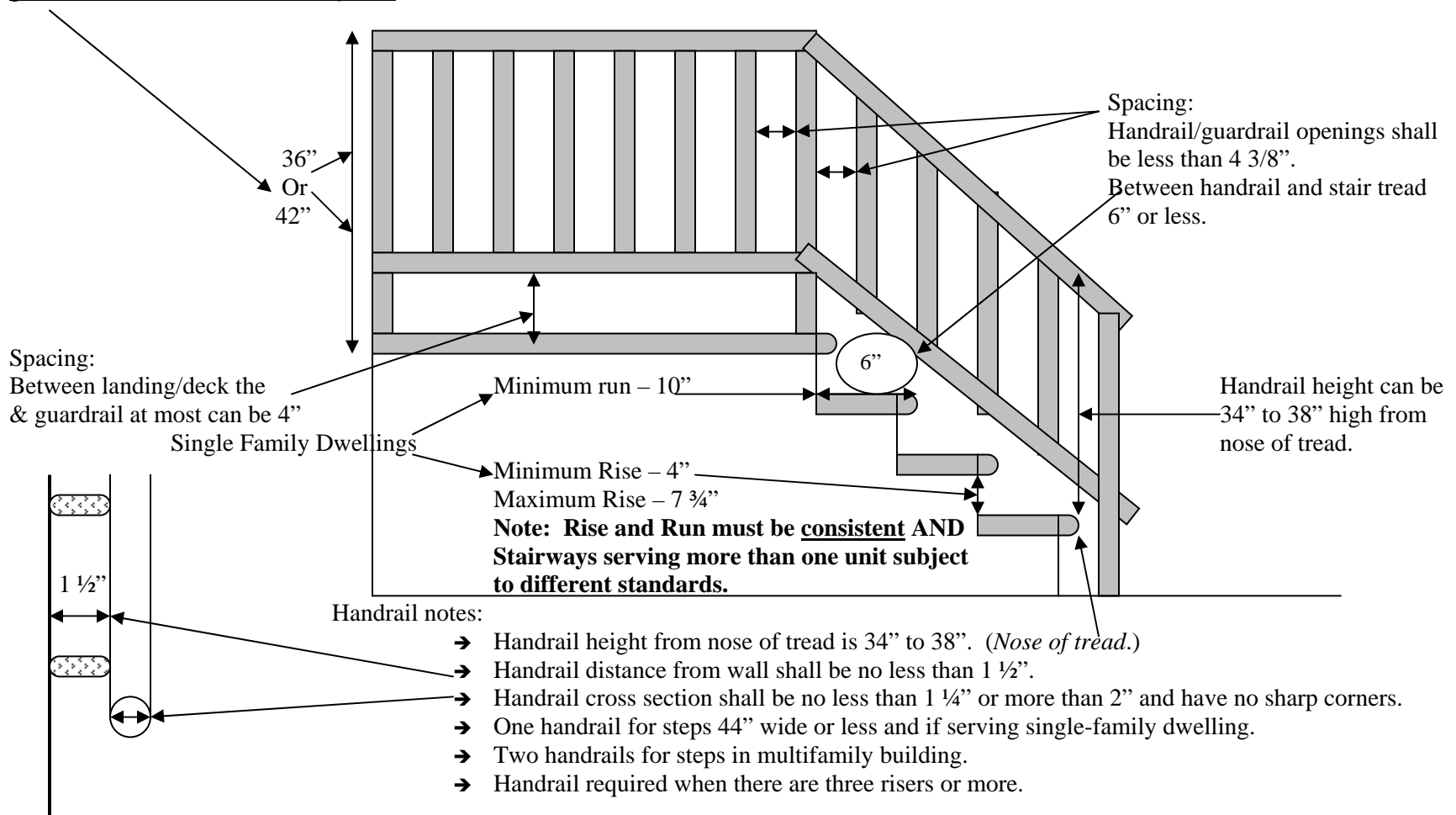


Handrail, Guardrail and Stair Code Information

Guardrail height 36" for a single-family dwelling or duplex, unless it empties into a common area, then must be 42" high. Guardrail height for buildings with 3 or more units must be 42" high. This applies to all guardrails, whether it is for stair landings, balconies, porches or etc., when guardrail is 30" or more above grade.



From City of Marshalltown's Housing Code, Chapter 15.5 HOUSING CODE: **Sec. 15.5-42.**

(h) Structurally sound handrails shall be provided on any steps containing three risers or more. If steps are not enclosed, handrails and intermediate rails of an ornamental pattern shall be utilized such that no object four inches in diameter can pass through. Handrails shall be not less than 30 inches above the nosing of the treads. Porches or balconies located more than 30 inches higher than the adjacent areas shall have structurally sound guardrails 36 to 42 inches high and if unenclosed, balusters, intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern used as previously discussed in this subsection.

This drawing is just an example. The above information taken from code. For further information, please contact the Housing Inspection Office or the City Building Official.