

5101:2-7-12

**Site and safety requirements for a foster home.**

- (A) A foster home and all structures associated with the home shall be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition and in a reasonable state of repair.
- (B) Outdoor recreation equipment on the grounds of a foster home shall be maintained in a safe state of repair.
- (C) Outdoor areas on the grounds of or immediately adjacent to a foster home which are potentially hazardous to a foster child placed in the home shall be reasonably safeguarded, considering the age and functioning level of the foster child. Such areas include, but are not limited to:
  - (1) Water areas, including lakes, ponds, rivers, quarries and swimming pools;
  - (2) Open pits and wells;
  - (3) Cliffs and caves;
  - (4) High-speed or heavily traveled roads.
- (D) A foster home shall be adequately heated, lighted and ventilated.
- (E) Bleach, cleaning materials, other poisonous or corrosive household chemicals, flammable and combustible materials, potentially dangerous tools or utensils, and electrical equipment or machinery in or on the grounds of a foster home shall be stored in a safe manner.
- (F) Any firearm, air rifle, hunting slingshot or other projectile weapon kept on the grounds of or in a foster home shall be stored in an inoperative condition in a locked area inaccessible to children. All ammunition, arrows or projectiles for such weapons shall be stored in a separate locked space. Any foster caregiver who is also a law enforcement official and can document that their jurisdiction requires them to have ready and immediate access to their weapon shall be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.
- (G) A foster home shall have a working telephone or be able to demonstrate to the recommending agency reasonable access to a working telephone for emergency situations.
- (H) Appropriate emergency telephone numbers including fire, police, ambulance, poison control, the recommending agency, and each agency with a foster child placed in

the home shall be posted in a prominent place in a foster home.

- (I) All locking doors to any room or storage area inside a foster home in which a person could become confined, and from which the only other means of exit requires the use of a key, shall be able to be unlocked from either side. Locking of the children's bedroom doors while children are sleeping is prohibited. Locking of outside doors is permitted. Fencing around a yard or outside play area is permitted.
- (J) A foster home shall have a continuous supply of safe drinking water. Well water used for drinking and cooking shall be tested and approved by the health department prior to initial certification and annually.
- (K) A foster home shall have working bathroom and toilet facilities located within the home and connected to an indoor plumbing system.
- (L) Garbage shall be disposed of on a regular basis. Garbage stored outside shall be in covered containers or closed bags.
- (M) A foster home shall have a working smoke alarm approved by "Underwriter's Laboratory" on each level of occupancy of the home.
- (N) A foster caregiver shall have a written evacuation plan for evacuating the home or seeking shelter in the event of fire, tornado or other disaster. This evacuation plan shall contain a primary and alternate escape route for each floor. A foster caregiver shall provide initial orientation and ongoing instruction on the contents of this plan to each foster child in accordance with the foster child's age and functioning level.
- (O) All escape routes shall be kept free of clutter and other obstructions.
- (P) Household heating equipment used in a foster home shall be equipped with appropriate safeguards in accordance with the age and functioning level of any foster child in the home.
- (Q) Unvented kerosene heaters may be used, if the heater has been approved by "Underwriter's Laboratory", and they are not prohibited by any local zoning ordinances.
- (R) A foster home shall have an "Underwriter's Laboratory" approved portable fire extinguisher in working order in or near the cooking area of the home.
- (S) Pets or domestic animals in or on the premises of a foster home shall be kept in a safe

and sanitary manner in accordance with state and local laws.

- (T) A foster child shall be protected from animals potentially dangerous to ~~his~~ the child's health and safety in or on the premises of a foster home.
- (U) Interior and exterior stairways accessible to children shall be protected by child safety gates or doors according to the child's age and functioning level.

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Certification

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