

## FOSTER HOME INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

<b>Item</b>	
<p>Will there be less than seven children be living in the Foster Home?</p>	<p>If seven or more children reside in the Foster Home, the home is defined as a Foster Group Home, and a site inspection by a certified fire safety inspector is required. Additional or modified fire safety requirements may apply. If the answer to this question is No, you may contact the State Fire Marshal's Office for assistance.</p>
<p>Are all the children ambulatory and capable of self-preservation?</p>	<p>Children must be capable of self-evacuation and be without any primary medical needs. No more than two infants (up to 24 months) may reside at the home and an emergency evacuation and relocation plan, as required by General Residential Operations rule 748.3231, must specifically provide for the evacuation of all residents in less than three minutes.</p>
<p>Is a working smoke detector installed in each sleeping room?</p>	<p>Smoke detectors shall receive power from the building electrical system or batteries. Check the smoke detector monthly for proper operation by pressing the test button or switch on the unit. Do not use a flame or smoke to test the unit. If a battery-powered smoke detector does not operate when tested, change the battery and retest. If the unit still does not work, replace the smoke detector. Any non-functional line-powered smoke detectors shall be replaced. Batteries shall be changed at least annually. Statistics show about one-third of the smoke detectors installed in homes are inoperative. When detectors are non-operational, the usual reason is dead or missing batteries. The detector(s) should be mounted according to manufacturer's instructions.</p>
<p>Is a working smoke detector installed in the hallway near the sleeping rooms?</p>	<p>In addition to providing a smoke detector within each sleeping room, smoke detector(s) shall be in the hall area(s) near the sleeping rooms. The detector(s) should be mounted according to manufacturer's instructions. The</p>

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	<p>smoke detectors must be tested in the same manner as described above.</p>
<p>If the house is more than one story is a working smoke detector installed at the top of the stairs?</p>	<p>In multi-story homes, the smoke detector that covers the upper floor(s), in addition to those required in sleeping rooms, should usually be located at the top of the stairs. The detector(s) should be mounted according to manufacturer's instructions. The smoke detectors must be tested in the same manner as described above.</p>
<p>Does each sleeping room and living area have at least one of the following secondary means of escape other than the front or back door of the home? A) A door, stairway, passage or hall providing unobstructed travel leading directly to the outside of the dwelling; or B) An outside window with a minimum opening of not less than 5.7 sq. ft. in area, minimum of 20 inches wide, and at least 24 inches high, and no higher than 44 inches above the floor, located within 20 ft. of grade accessible to</p>	<p>Every sleeping room and every living and dining area shall be provided with access to a secondary means of escape to the outside of the home in addition to the front or back doors. The purpose of the secondary means of escape is to provide an occupant with an alternate escape route when fire or another emergency blocks the primary exit from the Foster Home. Three types of secondary means of escape that are permitted: (A) A door that opens to the outside. OR (B) The use of a readily operable window in the sleeping rooms and living areas of the home that provides an opening of not less than 5.7 sq. ft. in area, minimum of 20 inches wide and 24 inches high, and the bottom of the opening no higher than 44 inches above the floor, located within 20 ft. of grade accessible to fire department apparatus. OR (C) Every sleeping room and living area without a secondary means of escape (as described in A or B above), has a passage, other than the hallway, to another room that has a means of escape as described in A or B above. The passage must not have any doors that can be locked. An example would be two bedrooms or living areas directly connected with a passage or door. A shared bathroom connecting two living area or sleeping rooms usually will not be acceptable because one or both doors could be locked, preventing passage from one room to the other. Note: There are two exceptions to the requirement for secondary means of escape</p>

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	from each bedroom or living area: (1) if the bedroom or living area has a door opening directly to the outside of the building, or (2) where the Foster Home is protected throughout by an approved automatic fire sprinkler system.
Can a person travel from any room of the house to an exit that leads directly outside without having to pass through an interior door than can be locked?	No Foster Home may have any interior door used in a path of escape that can be locked.
Can all primary exterior exit doors, windows used as a secondary means of escape, and any security bars incorporated with these primary and secondary means of escape, be opened from the inside without the use of a key, tool or special knowledge (security code, combination)?	Primary exit doors and secondary means of escape, such as windows, and security bars that require a key, opening tool or special knowledge (security code, combination) are prohibited. Several multiple-death fires have occurred when a door lock could not be released because the key could not be found. The prohibition on these types of locks applies only to those doors or windows that are part of the required primary and secondary exits.
Are the closet doors equipped so that a child can open the door from the inside?	The requirement for a child being able to open a closet door from the inside is to ensure that the child cannot accidentally become locked inside.
If the bathroom door is equipped with a lock, can the door be unlocked from the outside during an emergency?	Children will often lock themselves in the bathroom. Provisions for unlocking the doors from the outside will facilitate rescue by other occupants or by fire department personnel.
Can all bedrooms and/or living areas above the first floor be accessed by a standard set of stairs?	Children will often lock themselves in the bathroom. Provisions for unlocking the doors from the outside will facilitate rescue by other occupants or by fire department personnel.
Are all gas, wood, or fuel-fired heaters used in the home vented to the outside? (unless listed and approved)	Un-vented heaters that bear the mark or label of an approved testing firm and are installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and applicable safety codes are acceptable. Some older un-vented heaters are not equipped with vents to the outside of the home. These heaters depend on regular

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	<p>maintenance, proper adjustment, and an adequate air supply for proper combustion. Unvented heaters can release lethal carbon monoxide into the home, deplete the oxygen levels in the home to dangerous limits, or provide an ignition source for a fire.</p>
<p>Are heaters, including wood burning or gas log fireplaces, equipped with immovable screens or barriers to prevent contact with open flames or hot surfaces?</p>	<p>It is important to provide safeguards to protect children from the hot surfaces of heating equipment. Children do not always understand the dangers of hot surfaces. Screens (barriers) that prevent children from accessing heating equipment must be of closely spaced wire or expanded metal and must be securely attached to parts of the building to prevent movement.</p>
<p>Are gas appliances (heaters, water heaters, stoves) equipped with metal tubing and metal connectors?</p>	<p>All gas appliances must be equipped with metal tubing and connectors, no rubber hoses.</p>
<p>Are all gas-fired heaters inspected annually by a qualified technician?</p>	<p>All gas-fired heaters, including any central heating unit, should be inspected annually by a qualified person to ensure the unit is in proper working order to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.</p>
<p>Are combustible items (things that burn) stored away from any stove, heater, or fireplace in the Foster Home?</p>	<p>There should be no storage of any item that could burn (boxes, paper, clothing, wood scraps, blankets/pillows) near stoves, heaters, fireplaces, or other sources of flame or heat, including the gas water heater closets or other gas fired appliances.</p>
<p>Are all lighters and matches kept out of the reach of children?</p>	<p>All matches and or lighters must be out of the reach of children. Children playing with matches and/or cigarette lighters cause many deaths and millions of dollars in damage each year.</p>
<p>Are flammable liquids stored in safety cans and kept away from heat and children?</p>	<p>Flammable liquids should be stored in safety cans with the lid shut to prevent vapors from escaping.</p>
<p>There should be a five-pound portable fire extinguisher mounted on a wall in the kitchen to</p>	<p>Is there an operable five-pound dry chemical fire extinguisher available for use in the kitchen?</p>

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<p>extinguish small fires that may develop in or on the stove.</p>	
<p>Has a Home Fire Escape Plan been written, practiced, and documented?</p>	<p>Home fire escape plans are essential to enable all residents to know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds, or other signs of fire are present. Home fire escape plans must rehearse by all occupants each month to remain effective. The plan should enable all family members to escape using primary or secondary exits. A safe location outside the home should be selected for a gathering point, well away from the dangers of the fire or responding emergency vehicles.</p>
<p>21. Extension cords are to be used on a temporary basis only. When the cords remain plugged in, they become part of the building wiring system. No frayed or spliced appliance cords are permitted because of the danger of a short circuit. All unused openings in the electrical circuit breaker box must be covered to prevent any material from meeting live electrical wires.</p>	<p>Does the electrical system appear to be in good condition?</p>