

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF STATE AND/OR AGENCY REGULATIONS REGARDING HOME/SAFETY ISSUES THAT YOUR HOME MUST MEET IN ORDER TO BE APPROVED FOR FOSTER CHILDREN:

1. Must have one flush toilet and one wash basin and bath or shower with hot/cold running water.
2. Must have operable heating system.
3. Must have an operable phone.
4. Containers of poisonous, caustic, toxic, flammable or other dangerous material must be distinctly marked or labeled as hazardous and stored in lock areas, inaccessible to children. (Medication shall also be locked and out of reach of children 5 years of age and under).
5. Emergency telephone numbers including those for fire, police, poison control and ambulance shall be conspicuously posted adjacent to all telephones.
6. Fireplaces, fireplace inserts and wood and coal burning stoves, if allowed by local ordinance, shall be securely screened or equipped with protective guards. Any free-standing space heaters shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's specifications for operations.
7. An operable smoke detector must be placed on each level of the residence and maintained in operable condition at all times. Effective January 2007, the agency shall require that smoke detectors be placed in bedrooms as well. Already approved foster homes are requested to have this completed within one year, if not in compliance.
8. A portable fire extinguisher, suitable for Class B fires must be available in the kitchen and other cooking areas and be tested yearly or have a gauge to insure adequate pressure. Effective January 2007, the agency shall require that additional fire extinguishers (B Class) be placed on any other living level of the home, including the basement. Already approved resource homes are requested to have this completed within one year, if not in compliance.
9. Protective safety caps must be placed in all electrical outlets accessible to children younger than five years of age.
10. Exposed electrical wiring is prohibited.
11. Drinking water from a non-community water source must pass an annual inspection by a laboratory certified by the Department of Environmental Resources.

12. When transporting children weighing less than 40 pounds in a motor vehicle, foster parents shall ensure that the children are placed in an infant car seat that meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards Code. (**Refer to Addendum in Orientation Manual for information regarding 75 PA. C54581 Codes and DPW Regulations #3130.89 Regarding Transportation Requirements**).
13. Sleeping areas shall meet the following criteria:
  - a. No unsuitable area such as a hall, stairway, unfinished attic or basement, garage, bathroom, eating area, closet, shed or detached building may be used as a sleeping area for children.
  - b. Foster children of the opposite sex who are 5 years of age or older cannot share the same bedroom.
  - c. Each foster child shall be provided with a clean, comfortable mattress and clean, linens, blankets and pillow.
  - d. Each foster child shall have a separate bed.
14. Residence must be without lead paint or asbestos on any surface.
15. (Hunting) weapons, guns, knives must be locked, out of sight and kept unloaded.
16. Hot water accessible to children should be set at less than 120° F.
17. Expandable gates must be used at top and bottom of “open” stairwells for infant/toddler age children. Open stairwells should have railing/walls for safety.
18. Above ground swimming pools should be equipped with a ladder that swings up or locks to block access into the pool/or the pool should have the ability to block access. Access for children to in-ground pools must also be locked (or pool should be fenced in).
19. Necessary appliances need to be in working order.
20. Pets shall not present a health risk in the home. Required shots for pets shall be up to date.
21. There shall be at least two means of egress from the home that leads outside.
22. The exterior of the home shall be in good repair and free from objects that might pose a health/safety risk.
23. The home shall have a first aid kit available.
24. The family shall have a fire escape plan.
25. Matches/lighters kept inaccessible to children.
26. Liquor and alcoholic beverages are to be kept locked and inaccessible to children.
27. “No Smoking” sign posted in the home.