



December 27, 2016

The Honorable Andy Biggs
President, Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable David Gowan
Speaker, Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Foster Home Licensing Review Report

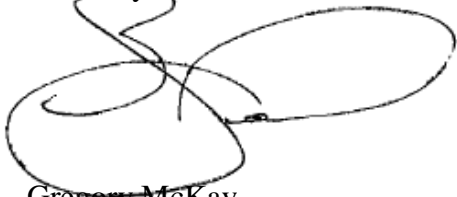
Dear President Biggs and Speaker Gowan:

Pursuant to House Bill 2705, State of Arizona Fifty-second Legislature, Second Regular Session, 2016, the Department of Child Safety was required to report its findings of a review of the implementation of foster home licensing rules, guidelines, and checklists to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate on or before December 31, 2016. Specifically, the Department was required to submit the report after it:

1. Reviewed the implementation of foster home licensing rules, guidelines and checklists.
2. Reviewed the cases in which foster home licenses were denied.
3. Held public meetings to solicit input from foster families on the implementation of new foster home licensing rules, guidelines and checklists.
4. Identified any modifications required in new foster home licensing rules, guidelines or checklists.

You will find the enclosed report for your review. Please contact my office with any questions at (602) 255-2500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory McKay'. The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gregory McKay
Director

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY
Foster Home Licensing Review Report
December 2016

Pursuant to House Bill 2705, State of Arizona Fifty-second Legislature, Second Regular Session, 2016, the Department of Child Safety is required to report its findings of a review of the implementation of foster home licensing rules, guidelines, and checklists to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate on or before December 31, 2016. Specifically, the Department was required to submit the report after it:

- Reviewed the implementation of foster home licensing rules, guidelines and checklists.
- Reviewed the cases in which foster home licenses were denied.
- Held public meetings to solicit input from foster families on the implementation of new foster home licensing rules, guidelines and checklists.
- Identified any modifications required in new foster home licensing rules, guidelines or checklists.

In response to concerns from stakeholders and as required by House Bill 2705, the Department of Child Safety (“Department”) held a number of process improvement events regarding the foster home licensing rules, as well as the Life Safety Inspection (“LSI”) process and checklists. The Department reviewed all cases where foster home license applications were denied or withdrawn, and hosted two public meeting to allow foster families to give input on the new rules. Through this process, the Department identified several modifications required in the licensing rules, as well as in the LSI checklist

Prior to submitting this report, the Department held a non-public meeting with currently licensed foster parents to review the findings and suggested modifications. Their feedback is incorporated.

1. Review of the Licensing Rules, Guidelines and Checklists

The Office of Licensing and Regulation (“OLR”), along with business analysts and special projects managers hosted a series of days-long process improvement events in May, September and October to review the foster home LSI checklist and the foster home licensing process in general. The meetings in October, although held internally, also included representatives from licensing agencies. These events generated many changes to the checklist, and identified areas in the foster home licensing rules that the Department believed could or should be changed to facilitate less burdensome licensing requirements for foster families.

2. Review of Denied Foster Home Licenses

Since the new rules became effective in January 2016, the Department has denied eight licenses. Two denials were for initial licensure and six were license renewals. None of the licenses were denied based due to requirements in the new rules.

Some homes were out of compliance with new requirements in the rules when an initial or renewal application was submitted. In such cases, OLR advised the families about how to come into compliance to meet the requirements as outlined in rule. OLR worked with the family and licensing agency to ensure licensing compliance. If a family was unable to bring the home into compliance, the family could potentially amend the age range of children they are licensed to receive, if the issue is pool safety, or could withdraw their license.

The Department reviews on a weekly basis all cases in which families close their license and the reason for closure. In the last year, 1,827 families closed their licenses. Of those families, 3% listed the reason for closure as “Disgruntled/Dissatisfied.” Six families, or .003% of all families that closed their licenses, specifically listed the new rules as one of the reasons they were disgruntled or dissatisfied.

3. Public Meetings

The Department held public meetings on September 19th in Tucson and September 20th in Phoenix to solicit feedback from foster families regarding the new rules, and the implementation of those rules. Those meetings were videotaped and the video recording is available upon request of the legislature. In addition to the public meetings, the Department allowed for written comments to be submitted regarding the rules. Those written comments are attached to this report (Attachment A).

Additionally, the Department received a survey of foster parents from the Arizona Council of Human Services providers. The findings of that survey have been reviewed and considered by the Department, but will not be specifically addressed in this report.

The Department held an additional informal meeting with foster parents to review the findings of the report. Although not required by HB2705, the Department wanted to seek input from licensed foster parents on the proposed modifications and recommendations to ensure the comments from the public were adequately addressed and that the Department’s responses were appropriate.

4. Modifications Identified in the Checklists and Rules from Internal and External Sources

Internal Review of Checklists

Through its own internal review process, and in response to feedback received by OLR from foster parents and licensing agencies, the Department revamped its LSI checklist in May of 2016. In February of 2016 the life safety inspection had a 97% fail rate. From that number the Department concluded that 1) it was not giving licensing agencies and foster families adequate information to prepare for the home inspections and 2) the requirements for licensure were too stringent. To remedy the lack of clear information, the Department updated the tool it uses to

inspect homes. The original eight page checklist (Attachment B) was expanded to a 42 page checklist that now includes pictures and suggestions for compliance (Attachment C). The Department also partnered with the Department of Housing to identify a furnished housing unit to train licensing agency specialists on what to look for when preparing families for their home inspection.

Regarding the licensing requirements themselves, the Department made substantive changes to the requirements in the checklist to eliminate subjective decision making, as well as ensure that anything required in the checklist is based in statute or rule. Through this process the Department was able to identify areas it can change immediately, and others it would like to change, but that require a statute or rule change.

The Department identified the following areas that can be immediately improved without a statute or rule change:

Issue: There was no standardized water testing for homes that use a non-municipal water source.

Solution: The Department worked with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health Services to standardize water quality tests in homes that use well water.

Issue: Community feedback indicated that the first aid kit requirements were too stringent.

Solution: Best practice requires that foster families have first aid supplies in the home. In order to ensure consistency and allow families to prepare, the Department used the American Red Cross suggested list for first aid. The Department was able to narrow the list of required supplies in response to stakeholder concerns, without compromising child safety.

Issue: Community feedback indicated that the requirements of what types of chemicals and medications must be in a locked location were too stringent.

Solution: Instead of delineating what types of chemicals need to be in a locked location, the Department clarified that only highly toxic substances (substances that can cause serious bodily harm or death if improperly used) must be locked. This includes any items with any of the following phrases on the label:

- Fatal if swallowed
- Toxic if swallowed
- Harmful if swallowed
- May be harmful if swallowed
- Highly flammable liquid and vapor
- Danger
- Poison
- Highly flammable liquid and vapor

Additionally, the Department removed nail polish and protein powder from the list of items that must be in a locked location.

Issue: There is a wait list for LSIs and if a family fails the initial inspection, it could take months before DCS can re-inspect the home.

Solution: The Department identified two areas where a re-inspection by DCS is necessary. The first is when there is an issue with weapons being improperly stored, and the second is when the issue involves pool safety. Because those two areas are extremely high risk, the Department must re-inspect the home itself. For all other issues the licensing agency can re-inspect. By limiting the instances in which the Department must re-inspect and allowing agencies to do follow up inspections, the Department is better able to manage the wait list for home inspections.

Issue: Families were failing the LSI for easily fixable issues, such as missing an electrical face plate, or smoke alarms with no batteries.

Solution: The Department is working to create standard LSI Car-Kits for OLR inspectors for easy fixes like outlet covers. The Department is analyzing which items the kits must contain and identifying funding. The Department is also working to connect families with community resources that can help prepare them for inspection by supplying items like a fire extinguisher or helping with home modifications.

Internal Review of Rules

The Department identified the following areas that can be improved following a rule change:

Rule: R21-8-112, R21-8-113 Fire/Pool Safety.

Recommendation: Department life safety inspection rules require that every bedroom in a home have two methods of egress, one being directly to the outdoors, but not directly into a pool enclosure. The rules also require that in homes with pools, a room that is designated as a bedroom for a foster child shall not open into the pool enclosure and other windows that open into the pool enclosure are permanently secured to open no more than four inches. This presents a problem for family foster homes that have bedrooms where the window or doors only open into the pool enclosure, and there is no egress directly to the outdoors that is not into the pool enclosure. These families then either violate section 112 or 113, and therefore must either barricade the room entirely or cannot be licensed for children under 7 years of age.

The Department requested, and was granted, an exemption from the moratorium on rulemaking to correct this issue. The Department submitted to the Attorney General's Office a proposal for emergency rulemaking to allow the rule to immediately go into effect. However, because emergency rules are only valid for 120 days, the Department also began the regular rulemaking process, to ensure the change is permanent, once the emergency rule expires.

Rule: R21-6-403(B)(12) & (14) Application for an Initial License.

Recommendation: Current rules require a ten year work and address history. This is a burden on foster parents to collect, and federal laws only require a five year history. The Department would propose changing the rule to only require a five year address and work history.

Rule: R21-6-203 Conflicts of Interest.

Recommendation: The rule currently prohibits a licensing agency from licensing anyone who is an employee of the licensing agency. This prohibits foster parent trainers who train the foster care curricula from being licensed by that agency. The Department would propose creating an exception under the Conflict of Interest for Foster parent trainers that work part-time and train the foster care curricula.

Rule: R21-6-331 Requirements for Certification to Provide Specialized Services.

Recommendation: The rule currently defines a foster home with a certification to provide specialized services as one that is licensed with a maximum capacity of three foster children, and each foster parent has received specialized training to provide care and services within a support system of clinical and consultative services to foster children with special behavioral health needs, as identified by the Department. The current title of “Therapeutic” foster parent has caused payment issues for AHCCCS. The Department would propose returning to the old language of a Professional Foster Care license rather than a Therapeutic Certificate.

Rule: R21-6-205 Licensing Agency Responsibility; Application for an Initial Foster Home License.

Recommendation: The Department requires both a health self-disclosure and a physician’s statement. The health self-disclosure is not informative and is redundant. The physician’s statement is sufficient. The Department would propose eliminating the need for a self-health disclosure and either have all adults in the home get a physician’s statement (in other States this is required) or only require the licensed foster parents to get a physician’s statement.

Modifications Suggested by Public Comments:

The Department received a number of comments both at the public meetings and through email regarding the new foster home licensing rules. Although the session law required the Department to solicit comments from foster families, as the meeting was a public meeting and the Department was making a call to the public for input, it did not limit the comments at the public meeting only to those families that are currently licensed. Therefore, some of the comments came from formerly licensed families or licensing agencies. The following represents the Department’s response to concerns with rules that were mentioned more than once. A full listing of the comments is attached to this report. At the request of a member of the legislature, the Department will respond to any additional comments not mentioned below.

Rule: R21-6-309 capacity requirements (ten comments)

Recommendation: The Department received the most comments regarding the new rule that limits the number of children in a licensed foster home to eight. The current rule does allow for exceptions, specifically:

1. To keep a sibling group together, if approved in writing by the DCS Director's office or designee;
2. If the total number of foster children exceed five and the additional requirements specified in R21-6-331 are met for a Group Foster Home; or
3. If the children living in the applicant or licensee's home would exceed eight, including any foster children, and the applicant or licensee meets the requirements of subsection (F); (*below*)
4. To keep a foster child in the home as of the effective date of this Section.

(F). Recommendations of the licensing agency and decisions of OLR to establish or increase the capacity of a foster home or to exceed the limits as indicated in subsections (B) and (C), shall be justified by:

1. Adequate sleeping arrangements (as specified by R21-6- 310 and R21-6-311),
2. The support network available to the foster parent, and
3. The licensee's willingness and ability to provide care for each additional foster child.

Because these exceptions are in the current rule, and allow for more than eight children to be in a home, the Department does not recommend making the modification requested. Children in the Department's custody have often had serious adverse childhood experiences, and significant trauma. They require a home where the foster parent has not only the space and resources, but also the time to provide a nurturing environment. The Department understands that many large families are able to work well. However, the decision to place a child in a home where there are already at least eight children should be made on case by case basis, and with caution.

Rule: Chapter 8 (LSI) and 6 (licensing) general implementation (nine comments)

Recommendation: Several comments did not relate to a specific rule but to the licensing process or the home inspection process in general. Complaints related to time to receive an inspection, lack of clarity in the rules, too much subjective decision making regarding the home inspection, and requirements being too stringent.

The Department has made modifications to its processes in response to these concerns, including training licensing agencies to do the home inspection to shorten wait times, updating the LSI tool to provide clarity and assistance to families applying for licensure and to ensure consistency between the LSI inspectors, and adjusting some of the more stringent requirements in the LSI rules and checklists in response to stakeholder concerns, as outlined above.

Rule: R21-6-402 Rights of the Applicant and the Foster Parent (four comments)

Recommendation: These comments related to the way foster parents are treated by the licensing agency and the Department, and that the process requires too much personal information. The Department has suggested rule changes outlined above the limit the amount of information required (work history and health self-disclosure). However, much of the information requested

from applicants is necessary to comply with federal requirements in title IV-E related to licensure and federal funding.

Making modifications to the way foster parents are treated by the Department and the licensing agencies does not require a rule change. These issues can be addressed through training and contracts.

Rule: R21-6-326 Unusual Incident Report process (four comments)

Recommendation: Several comments indicated that the rule requiring foster parents to notify the Department and their licensing agency when an unusual incident occurs with the child in their care is too burdensome. The rule requires immediate notification of DCS and notification of the licensing agency within 24 hours in the following instances:

1. Death of a foster child;
2. Unexplained absence of a foster child;
3. Unauthorized removal or attempted removal of a foster child from the care and supervision of the foster parent;
4. A serious illness, injury, or mental health crisis of a foster child requiring hospitalization or emergency room treatment;
5. An allegation or the discovery of a sign of abuse or neglect of a foster child;
6. Arrest of a foster child or the involvement of a foster child with law enforcement that does not lead to arrest;
7. Fire or other situation requiring overnight evacuation of the home;
8. Incidents that involve or are likely to involve the media; or
9. Any other unusual incident that seriously jeopardizes the health, safety, or well-being of a foster child.

In these instances, the foster parent, or their licensing agency, is required to fill out an incident report provided by the Department.

The rule also requires notification within 24 hours to the Department and the licensing agency in writing in the following instances:

1. Injury, illness, change of medication, or medication error that requires a foster child to be seen by a doctor of medicine, physician assistant, or registered nurse practitioner;
2. Theft of money or property belonging to a foster child;
3. Significant damage to the property of a foster child;
4. Injury to others or significant damage to the property of others caused by a foster child;
5. The use of physical restraint to control a foster child's sudden, out-of-control behavior;
6. Arrest of a household member or involvement of a household member with law enforcement that does not lead to an arrest;
7. Changes in the household that affect the foster parent's ability to meet the needs of the foster child;
8. Life-threatening illness, injury, or the death of a household member; or

9. Incidents involving a DCS Report or investigation.

It appears from the comments that there is some misinformation about this rule. In the second category of incidents, listed in subsection C, the foster parent need only notify the DCS worker and the licensing worker in writing of the incident. An incident report is only required for events falling under subsection A. The Department believes it is reasonable for a foster parent to be required to fill out a formal incident report for those types of events that are very serious and impact the health and safety of the foster child, and therefore does not recommend a change to the rule. The Department will work with licensing agencies to clarify this requirement for foster families.

Rule: R21-8-105 Safeguarding of Hazards; R21-8-106 Storage of firearms (four comments)

Recommendation: Stakeholders expressed concerns regarding a lack of clarity as to what is a “hazard,” and in the storage requirements for firearms. In its new LSI checklist, the Department has clarified the definition of hazard and what must be in a locked location. The Department has also provided suggestions for safe storage of weapons.

The Department’s rules regarding safeguarding of weapons are consistent with what is recommended by the National Association of Regulatory Administrations (NARA), which is followed by most states. The Department regulates homes, so weapons must be stored in a manner that is safe for children while in the home. The Department does not regulate lawful behavior outside of the home. Therefore, the Department is willing to reassess any current rules that potentially hinder responsible firearm ownership and use for licensed foster parents. However, because firearms and other weapons are a safety threat towards children they must be stored, while in the home, in a manner that prevents accidents and danger.

Rule: R21-8-112 and 113 Pool/Fire Safety (three comments)

Recommendation: The Department made modifications to these rules, as noted above, in response to stakeholder feedback.

Rule: R-21-6-209 Verification of Equipment at Time of Placement (three comments)

Recommendation: Commenters noted that the rules require placements to have a car seat for the child at the time of placement. This rule clarified previous practice that required car seats at the time of licensure.

The Department believes this rule should not be modified, as having appropriate and safe transportation from the moment of placement is imperative to the health and safety of the child. A foster family must often take a child to appointments in the first days of placement, and cannot delay those appointments while waiting for a car seat. Requiring the car seat at placement as opposed to licensure is helpful to a foster family because, although many families are licensed for a large age range, their placement preference may be for a smaller age range. Additionally, if

the foster family does not have a convertible car seat that works for all age ranges, they can buy an appropriate one between receiving the call for placement and receiving the child.

Rule: R21-6-303 Training Requirements (two comments)

Recommendation: Stakeholders questioned why CPR and First Aid training hours do not count toward the 12 hours of training a foster parent must receive every two years. The Department does not believe this rule should be modified, as it is beneficial for foster parents to receive a wide variety of training on issues, and to complete the same training every two years would detract from that variety.

Rule: R21-6-331 Requirements for Certification to Provide Specialized Services (two comments)

Recommendation: A commenter noted that there is not enough training available for the extra training hours for specialized service providers. The Department acknowledges this can be an issue, but a rule change is not required. The Department is working to secure additional training for these service providers, and is also considering reducing the number of training hours required.

5. Conclusion

The Department respectfully submits this report regarding the implementation of the new foster home rules, checklists, and guidelines for consideration before the legislature. The Department has spent numerous hours reviewing the implementation of the rules and has made many changes to improve the process. Feedback on the changes already made and on the proposals in this report has been positive. The Department looks forward to continuing to work with the legislature and stakeholders to improve the foster home licensing process.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

SUMMARY OF HB 2705 PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS

Monday, September 19, 2016

5 pm - 7 pm

YWCA

525 N. Bonita Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85745

*Christine Chacon, Licensing Specialist
Casa de los Niño's*

R21-6-323:

- It is difficult to obtain documents; for example, social security cards and birth certificates, etc.
- Please train caseworkers on this requirement
- This is an audit requirements for us
- Both the agency and the parents need these documents

R21-6-220 and R21-6-326:

- Please be consistent. R21-6-326 says that the foster parent has 24 hours to notify the licensing agency, and in R21-6-220, it gives the licensing agency 48 hours to notify the placing agency.

R21-6-309(C)(1):

- Here is says that a letter from the Director is needed to approve more than eight children, but OLR says this doesn't exist.
- If the steps are not relevant, then please remove.
- Who in Pima County approves this requirement?

R21-6-213:

- Can some training be on-line or does it all have to be in the classroom? Can OLR tell us the breakdown? For example, could it be 50-50?

Joel [REDACTED], Former Foster Parent

- It's worrisome the number of foster kids in Arizona
- Less and less homes want to foster
- We were foster parents for seven years, but it became too onerous, and we closed our license last year; it was too burdensome

- After the new rules were put into place on January 24th of this year, we found we couldn't do it
- It was little things but they all added up
- Our friends decided to also close their license because of the water well testing requirement; it costs hundreds of dollars to do the test
- The people who make these rules are people without children
- We had to lock-up essential oils, sprays, vitamins, like medications
- We did not have access to case plans; they never came, we would have liked to have known what is beneficial for the kids
- When we have dealt with the police, they were sensitive to the needs of the family; the caseworkers need to be trained in community relations and to the specific needs of the family, instead of us being treated like we are suspected of being guilty
- All of the rules are overwhelming to people, who wants to foster children?

Tuesday, September 20
5 p m- 7 pm
Ability 360 Center
5025 E, Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85024

Myra Lopez, Licensing Specialist
Human Resources Training

- The new rules are harder for kinship families
- 8,516 children are currently in family settings
- The licensing process takes months
- New changes in the system; now take four months to license homes
- Families are frustrated with the delays
- Three recommendations:
 - Ensure all information about the child is available at placement
 - Prioritize the Life Safety Inspection appointments for Kinship placements
 - Expedite the final issue of licenses for Kinship placements
- The forms used must be updated in Spanish, they need to be in both languages
- For example, I have a grievance form from 2006, it has not been updated or translated into Spanish since then
- The Go-To Guide also needs to be updated in Spanish

Del ██████████

- DCS should not seize safe children

- DCS should not remove children without a warrant
- This is against the fourth amendment
- Insert into the rules – no seizing of safe children
- Define impending danger
- Consider who is impacted by the rules, we want to focus on safety and to prevent bad things from happening to the kids
- When kids are shuffled from home to home, due to barriers in place; they need permanency, to thrive and stay in a home, let's cut through the stories of barriers of not licensing a family, these kids deserve a forever home, we need to move toward that end

Bahney Dedolph
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers

- The Council conducted a survey of new and experienced foster parents in February and again in September of 2016, specific to the implementation of the new foster home rules
- 300 responses
- Same questions were asked with each survey
- Over 70% saw a change with the new rules; 18-20% good, 54% worse
- In February, only 20% thought things were going well
- The general theme is that the rules are overreaching and excessive regulations; the time it takes to get licensed and relicensed; and the difficulty of licensing kinship foster homes
- Specific Areas Concerning New Rules:
 - Conflict of Interest Rule
 - First aid kit requirements
 - Excessive paperwork requirements
 - Locking up of certain items (e.g. protein powder)
 - Requirements to care for the medically fragile children
 - Payment delays while awaiting renewal of license
 - Requirements for pool fences and windows
 - Definition and interpretation of "Hazard"
- More and more rules are not needed; use common sense; let us be homes
- Trust the licensing agencies
- This makes it harder for a child in the system to feel normal in what should be a home setting
- The Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Training was not implemented well
- There are training issues, what the foster parents need vs. what they are receiving
- Foster parents want training on:
 - Disruptive Behavior
 - Behavior Management
 - Managing transitions as parents

- The wait for licensing is too long, we need high quality, yet something's not working – the time needed to schedule a Life Safety Inspection; families are waiting for these inspections in order to renew their licenses; one that was due in May is still waiting
- People are failing the Life Safety Inspections, we need to focus on the actual safety issues and the spirit of the law, rather than over one-inch of fencing; licensing staff feel like they are not doing their job if they are not failing them
- As a potential foster parent, I would not pass the Life Safety Inspection, my home was built in the 30's and I have one electrical outlet in each room; extension cords are not allowed in the rules
- We need a three-legged stool: The foster family, the Foster Home Licensing Agencies, and OLR; we need to repair the relationship or this will destroy the system,
- We need to clarify and interpret the rules, change the implementation without changing the rules
- You can't look at the implementation of the rules without looking at the impact and numerous changes to the checklists since then. We need the final version of these documents.
- We advocated for more inspection staff in the last legislative session; you should use the additional administrative staff spots you received this session

***Nancy [REDACTED] Licensed Foster Parent
Board Member of the Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents***

- Foster parent for 20 years; 50 individual children, adopted seven
- Rule of a maximum of eight children; bad for large families, with no licensing issues against them; this is prejudice against large families
- Home inspections every two years vs. three years; a hardship, waiting four months for renewals meanwhile no income for foster parents
- Physician statements every two years vs. three years; licensing workers who go into the homes should be trusted; there is a charge by doctors for this documentation; should be reimbursed to foster parents
- Why are CPR and First-aid excluded from counting as minimum training requirements?
- Car seats at time of placement; cannot stock a car seat for every age of child
- Unusual Incident Reports (UIR) for example, a change in medication; results in too many reports; if they are ill enough to go to the hospital, do a report then
- Foster parents are held to a higher standard than the bio parents are; upon the return of the children
- Trust the licensing agencies, they are trained social workers; are the OLR workers trained in social work? They do not understand our large families
- Who are you employing to get feedback from foster parents or social workers?
- More families are leaving the system
- Why are you placing three-year olds at Canyon State Academy?

Brian [REDACTED], Treasurer
(Jacob's Law)

- Has a four foot pool fence; the regulation is five feet
- Now it's up to the judge to decide on this issue
- We need to revisit this requirement
- When the rule changes occurred, there was limited discussion
- Attorneys who did this that have no knowledge of foster care

Jaime [REDACTED], Licensed Foster Parent

- Foster parent for 10 years
- The maximum of eight children rule has been hard on our home
- Obtaining an amendment is difficult
- The mother of the children is still having kids; we cannot get an open spot
- Two are in Group Homes, we want them back; we still have their beds and clothes; this is disruptive to the children
- Define the word "hazard" in the rules and exactly what a hazard is, I lock my knives up, but do I really have to lock up my vitamin C?

Diane [REDACTED], Licensed Foster Parent

- Single, eight children, five adopted
- Visits regularly with another foster child; wants her to also be in her home
- She has two additional caregivers; there are no issues of unmet needs
- Feels for families that have been shut down
- There is an explicit exception to the maximum of eight children in the law; OLR should provide for this
- No cases of non-siblings over eight children known; eight is arbitrary and should be done away with
- We need to trust the licensing agencies, let them evaluate the homes and use their judgement
- Some families can handle four, others eight.
- Why do we allow a playroom next to a pool, but not a master bedroom near a pool?

Anika [REDACTED], Licensed Foster Parent
(Jacob's Law)

- There are daily barriers for foster parents
- Not enough staff to do the foster home licensing renewals
- For foster parents wanting more than eight children, the licensing agency should decide

- First-aid kit requirements
- Car Seats; sends them to the child's new home; should be able to purchase car seats (upon need)
- Reporting medical instances; medically complex kids require this frequently; we should be able to bring a spreadsheet of the medical information and provide it at their monthly appointment
- Kinship placements: no one to do the home inspections; families have to wait
- The bio parents should have the same home safety requirements as a foster parent
- If there have been no changes in a foster home, we should not have to wait for renewals
- Get more input from the foster parents
- DCS needs better external communication, an announcement for this meeting was not in a memo or newsletter to the foster parents and the licensing agency did not forward the information
- DCS should also notify adoptive parents too, not just post on your website
- I used social media, I shouldn't have to do that

Ron Adelson
AASK

- Foster parent for three years
- One year ago we worked on the rules and the intent was the safety of the kids
- As far as implementation, we tell kinship placements they will be licensed, but when they are not, licensed because of the rules, then we end up leaving them (without support).
- What is the difference of having a cold compress and a bag of peas?
- Compare these rules with the Group Home rules
- We want reasonable and prudent lifestyles; it's not representative here; the lifestyles we are asking them to do
- The implementation is inconsistent
- Now we don't allow foster parents to teach PS-MAPP, but if you provide respite, you don't have to transfer agencies

Brandis [REDACTED], Licensed Foster Parent

- Was a non-relative kinship foster parent previously; no background as a foster parent; no support from anyone; there were no responses from the caseworkers
- The most frustrating thing is the long wait for home inspections
- It took me two to three months to finish the paperwork; the total licensing wait time was eight months
- We deserve more support
- The eight-maximum number of children rule is a subjective decision and should be made by the licensing agencies

Carol [REDACTED]

- Was an emergency receiving foster parent previously; but there were no services back then
- It is taking too long to license
- More people need to be hired to be trained as inspectors, more resources

Kim [REDACTED], *Licensed Foster Parent*

- Cannot take any more children under five years because of the rule, needed to become a kinship family to foster two more siblings
- Two adults must be present with the kids at all times to become a foster home
- Please support kinship foster families and let them have more kids
- Why do respite homes not require a fingerprint clearance card for all people in the house over 18 years old, and a foster home does? Respite homes should have the same requirement
- The social history and other records for a child in care should be made available immediately, at the time of placement, 30 days is too long

Rich [REDACTED], *Former Foster Parent*

- Accountability for the licensing agencies is needed, the children cannot just go to a home anywhere
- Why do some foster beds stay empty?
- The licensing workers changed the age range of my license and I did not know
- We feel worthless, why were we not considered?

Annette [REDACTED], *Licensed Foster Parent*

- You need to consider the financial implications when rules are changed.
- We modified our pool fence and bought a new first aid kit
- We gladly did it, but you need to look at the financial implications when placing rules upon us

Kellie [REDACTED]

- Due to the failing of inspections, we have lost hundreds of foster parents
- The number of medically fragile children allowed in a home dropped from five to three; one of the children in my home is a diabetic, and is stable;
- There is no training available for the additional six hours to care for medically fragile children
- My house is in order; this is hurting the kids, and people who want to foster

Deanne [REDACTED], Licensed Foster Parent

- A foster parent for 22 years
- My home is a CDH, we are in the DDD system now
- We had a child age-out and I have an opening, this is a waste of resources, we can take more
- This decision needs to be on a case by case basis

Lew [REDACTED], Licensed Foster Parent

- New to fostering one-year ago
- Thought we could help; there are so many kids in the system
- I have heard from many former foster parents, never again will we do this
- We like our case manager, but the licensing agency is a bully; they keep on asking us to take more children
- I had to go to a meeting at DCS because I wouldn't take on more children
- I don't need you, you need me, no one wants to do this
- The \$700.00 foster parents receive is a joke, compared to the \$3,500 for group homes,
- There needs to be some accountability with the licensing agencies; the agencies say that DCS doesn't know what it is doing; if the two entities could get together, they could work together

**Diane [REDACTED]
(Jacob's Law)**

- The training I received for Jacob's Law was relevant and informative
- The material needs to be heard by all DCS employees and foster parents in their first year of licensing
- The laws and policies of Jacob's Law are not being implemented; the caseworkers are saying they don't have the time; and are told not to worry about it
- When the authority doesn't follow the law, it is hard to stand up for children
- They don't look at the previous case they call the placement center first, not the previous bed, unless there's a problem, then they call us

Laura [REDACTED], Licensed Foster Parent

- Drove from Yuma
- The State needs to look at the kids and rules as a whole, especially in the rural areas
- You can't be a DDD home or CDH in Yuma, there are no benefits that the Phoenix area gets
- I travel to Phoenix often to get to the medical appointments

- There is mileage reimbursement, but no other consideration of costs, such as taking a day off from work and the time needed
- In Yuma we were not aware of the numbers and need for homes, there are so many openings, for adoption; these homes do not know about available children
- A family wanting an amendment to take more than eight children, has been waiting four months to take an additional sibling

Beth Rosenberg
Children's Action Alliance

- A last chance to review the rules did not occur
- We are treating kinship care families more like kinship homes than family foster homes
- Why can't we waive for non-safety standards?
- Provisional licensing should be done
- We should certify staff in the licensing agencies to do the Life Safety Inspections
- There is Federal legislation moving for states to adopt more flexible standards
- We need to come back together before the report is issued and communicate again on the recommendations.

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 02, 2016 2:04 PM
To: +DCS Policy Update
Subject: Fostering in AZ

To whom it may concern,

The expectations that have been newly implemented for emergency drills and the needed supplies is too high of an expectation. I believe this will cause you to lose many potential foster families and many current ones. The excessive amount of emergency water, tools, clothing and so on is a ridiculous extensive expectation that is too high a cost and is for no clear reasoning here in this state.

Thank you from a concerned foster mom,

Laura [REDACTED]

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2016 7:22 AM
To: +DCS Policy Update
Subject: Inspection,

This is Susan [REDACTED] how much more do you think foster parents can take,?first of all,home study's have all personal information on the family,and that's shared,with people they don't really know,there finger,printed,background check,you have everything listed along with proof of insurance,and if small child all seats have to be up to date and paid for by foster parent,your home is a open door for lawyers,case workers, llicencing workers,the foster parents work and pay all the bills,foster parent has to run out when child is placed in home to provide for the child's needs otherwise foster parents get a investigation on them because the sibbling group that was just placed and Cps wants kids in school like right now,have no nice clothing,so,,foster parent makes sure clothing is clean everyday and all holes are mended,have to wait for weekend to buy clothing out of pocket,even tho,,elegance clothing allowance is only 75dollars per child,which you try to purchase the needs of the child,all monies come out of pocket from foster parents,then transportation that foster parent does for children,out of pocket,to doctor visit,dentist,ccounseling,school,or to bus,now it's extra cost for food,the electric goes up,water bill goes up,laundry,laundry soap,softener,diapers,body soap,shampoo,conditioner,kotex,deodorant, then there's services that come into the home for special needs children,o by the way high level children being placed in regular homes which doesent help the child,and the family gets soiled to the point of that child being removed again,not good lose lose situation,then there's tons of paper work,if the child gets a scratch,or bruise,then you have bio parents pointing fingers, and Cps trying to accommodate bio parents needs,meanwhile the children's needs are being met by the foster parent,which reimbursement only happens a the 2nd week of the following month,and half the time it's not even a fraction of what was spent,o Ya,,you get a pat on the head,,and o how wonderful you are,bla, bla,bla,ok,here's where I'm going,,just wanted you to see how this all adds up,,now you have oclr,comming in to inspection for your home,they have a huge list of all the things you have to have,our inspection diddent pass,because we have metal that we use to build things with,,like the sheep barn,and some scrap that we haul off that we get paid for,then my dogs vaccine,rabies,been given rabies for years,and I have proof,and I do have one with a vet papers,now I'm spouse to get a vet to come out here,that's gonna cost me about 600dollars,we have livestock,we lived here for 25years been in foster care for 12almost 13years,we have had all ages here all levels of children we have met and went beyond the needs of the children that have been placed with us,we invest in the children needs,physical,mental,educational,and safety,and you send these people out and pay them money to come into homes to literally demonize them,make them feel violated,going threw places that friends and family don't even go,arc you kidding me?o and taking teens to ddermatologist,that the bio never did only to find out that they've been so nglcted that the infection is deep into there bone in there face,holding them while there sickall night long,or being called into the scschool of out burst of uuncontrolled behavior,yep,and one of the inspectors wanted me to build a 6foot fence around my animals water truffs,get real!!I said then how are my animals to drink?she said,,well rules say 6foot fence around bodies of water,give,me a,break,what moron makes these rules that apply to city,or suburbs,,if DDD,wants us to set another building on our property because our track record shows all children flourish here in our home,that should say something,and here's another thing,why the Heck is old getting paid to inspections when case workers a,licensing workers are always in the home,it should be up to licencing worker threw the agency,good grief I know ours does with hrt,specially when we had a DDD child in our home, now he's our son,good grief it seems like ALOT of monies are being paid out to the wrong or investing in so many places,and missing the child once again,o I forgot to mention,,the foster,parent gets reimbursed,a whole 19.68 a day,for 24hour care,,,that's less then a dollar a hour,really!!!?????o and if you take a teen in then they'll pay you 2dollars more or is it a dollar,I don't know,not interested in teens,been there done

that,,not worth my investment, ,sooo I see where this is heading,,,back to the,dark ages of orphanages, ,or institutions,or what ever fancy word you wanna attached or label on another hell step for kids,what ever,I just wanted you to see,,o I for got to foster parents have to have CPR,first aide,infant,certs,then there's so many hours of classes,there's no child care,that comes out,of parents pockets to,and if I would get reimbursed promised mileage,well howdy,,,that's another,promise that went wayside,yep,I'm,mad,dang straight I am,let me come into your home and go threw your,stuff,I'm sure your home WOULDNT , pass,,big time,!!my name is Susan■■■■,,,you can send me,a email,,as far as I can see,,,I'll be sending more emails to our,governer, ,,hopefully he'll do something,otherwise all you people that sit back and push pencils and read books on "how to""take these kids in and do what we do,you WOULDNT last a week,watching your stuff get broken,stolen,animals tochuerd or killed,what ever!!!!
Setnt from my Verizon Smartphone

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 02, 2016 1:59 PM
To: +DCS Policy Update

what about other meetings in yuma

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 4:43 AM
To: +DCS Policy Update
Subject: Inspection changes

To whom it may concern,,,we have been a foster/adopt family with hrt for almost 13years,now my rabies vaccine is unacceptable, even tho serial numbers,exp,and it's a 3year,which is all on vial label, which is attached by each dogs name and description,now I'm to get a vet to drive out here and vaccinate again,olr says it SHOULDNT hurt the dogs,hmm,funny the vet says same thing,,SHOULDNT,again another sacrifice at families expense,and we were told to put a fence around our metal that we are using to put up the sheep barn,which is almost finished,we had a scrape pile on a trailer which has been hauled off to scrap yard,my husband is a welder,we live in unincorporated split county,we breed dogs, horses,we have livestock,we eat organically as possible and our kids,which over 40kids have come into our home has just bloom by leaps and bounds,I feel there should be espically provisions on homes that have been n the system that hasnt had no violations,this is our lifestyle that has work for many children and families,living out should have different provisions then city or suburbs, I totally understand some people neglect the right place for children to be or play or there animals are neglected,the inspector committed on how well and beautiful our dogs are,but then again,,,our licencing worker has to come in and make sure we have all this redone so we can be relicenced?why if our licencing worker has to recheck,then how come there s olr?we have our licensing worker comming in our home,case workers,all kinds of therapists, we have had many adoptions,meetings with DDD, here's another thing,,if DDD wants us to expand and take more children in because children do so well, and they love our home and environment, our children are always supervised even out in play yard, where they can ride bikes,play in area with there trucks and cars,and rock on a rocking horse,or swing on swing set that my husband and a sibbling group that was placed here years ago, my hubby repurpose old tires for seats and weld up old pipes,the boys used tape measures,and learn safety equipment, life skills,I feel very violated when a stranger comes into our home and goes threw it, our friends don't even do or go threw our place and into our private areas where our kids and family don't even go,so feeling violated, expected to have extra expense and revaccante our dogs,and have our shop materials fenced off, giving a 100%to children where there bio families failed them,going to cft.court,visits,even supervising visits cause Cps short handed,transporting kids to Dr,dentist,coucling, and you wonder why there's not enough homes for kids?Good grief really?I haven't even started on the destruction of the home that repairs comes out of pocket,good grief and I thought a few years back when the inspector wanted us to put a 6foot fence around horses water truffs, I look at her and said"how are my horses SOPOSE to drink?really? ??what are the qualifications for olr jobs?not all life walks fit into a book or a category of someone's expectations. Of ignorance, really??what next?we can't take,kids fishing cause there's no 6foot fence around the lake,or we can't go to movies cause there has been shootings,we give all this,,,all for 19.68 a day you took away there camp money,and vacation monies,and now all this ridiculous rules,,good grief, ,,if you want to open up a orphanage then do so,many,people will be out of work and it will fail just like before,just because we have a heart doesent mean we are stupid and people can only take so much before they throw in the towel,old has over step and if we have all these other pprofessionas Comming in and out of our home,well give me a BREAK!! my Verizon Smartphone

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 8:52 PM
To: arriannarobinson@azdes.gov; Robinson, James (Jamie); Atkins, Harry; McKay, Gregory; ombuds@azoca.org
Cc: [REDACTED] Senseman, Carrie
Subject: Appeal Request Title 21-Affect on Parent Trainer

Hello, my name is Kristen [REDACTED] and I have been a certified parent trainer for the last 10 years. Recent changes through Title 21 affect my ability to continue doing the job that includes more than 100 series of the 30-hour curriculum led. In order to more fully express my request for the rule to be revised, I feel compelled to tell you more about who I am and why I love the work that I do.

Over the past 13 years, our family has provided a foster family to more than 90 children. We have become adoptive parents to six of these children and are very blessed by our experiences. Our family was initially licensed with an agency that did not offer DDD services so we became certified with Mosaic to continue the care of the two children we had. During this partnership, I was recognized as a strong resource for the birth mother and sent to the August 2005 leader training of PS-MAPP curriculum. I embraced the partnership and shared parenting components of the PS MAPP program. I drew from my own experience in these classes and became certified to train. I was recognized and approached by many of the agencies present to consider training with them once the curriculum was fully implemented in 2006. As a result my training journey has included training for AZCA, HRT, and Rise as well. However, the commitment by the team at AASK was a great fit and we ended up in a training relationship that eventually saw us transferring our license to AASK as well.

Now due to Title 21 Article 2, (R21-6-203 Conflicts of Interest) this is being taken from me due to a "conflict of interest". I am very interested in the perceived conflict as: I am NOT a full time employee, I do NOT have access to family files or the data base information kept on families, I do NOT receive preferential placement treatment, nor do I own any property afforded to traditional AASK employees (laptop, cell phone, mileage reimbursements, etc.). I am a trainer solely; I receive an hourly wage earned during classes only. I facilitate classes at one of two locations and provide feedback on each session to the training manager. The notes are entered by an employee of the training team as again this is something I am not permitted to access. If the perceived conflict "possibility" would apply due to an investigation, I have not been subject to one. I have however worked with amazing trainers that have been through the process of an investigation while maintaining their role as a trainer. As a resource parent trainer, I am able to offer a firsthand perspective that non-parents or licensing workers have a second hand knowledge of only. This cannot be duplicated in the videos shown or in a session 9 speaker presentation. I am able through the curriculum to put into perspective the real life application of the MAPP curriculum through my experience.

My current options since Title 21 has been enacted impact the other areas of my success, which is unacceptable. The current climate of change has me reaching out for support from my trusted resource agency more than ever. The options I have currently include the following:

1. Close our license- due to the overwhelming number of children in need, as well as the two children placed currently in our home, this is NOT an option.
2. Leave our agency- I speak directly about the support of my agency during training. How can I, in good conscious, leave the support system that our family has had for 10 years fully knowing that not all agencies are alike?
3. Train for another agency- again, I have done this in the past but the dilemma is again the standard to which each agency supports their families is very different. What I have come to accept as an AASK family as 'the norm' is quite simply not standard treatment.

This is where I implore you to consider reinstating a resource parent trainer's ability to train for their agency. Whom is better at speaking to the support provided by an agency than one of their own licensed families? Please consider the information about the lack of conflict that I have shared as an experienced trainer of 10 years and 100+ MAPP series taught.

Please contact me with any questions as I am anxious to work at the job that I love and I remain optimistic that this can be resolved quickly.

Gratefully,

Kristen [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2016 10:16 AM
To: +DCS Policy Update
Subject: HB 2705 My thought

Im a foster parent and I know it is very difficult to take care of these children. I have been doing this for 12 years and had adopted one girl. I am concerned for the foster parents when a child can lie and say something in a wrong way at school or therapy and then its investigated. Agencies do not like investigations or disruptions and will drop you if you have a couple. Is a disruption a childs fault, case team or the parents? As a foster parent I feel the blame and the case team knows how to put it on us. We are here to help kids into a family setting. Agencies just want clean slate families.

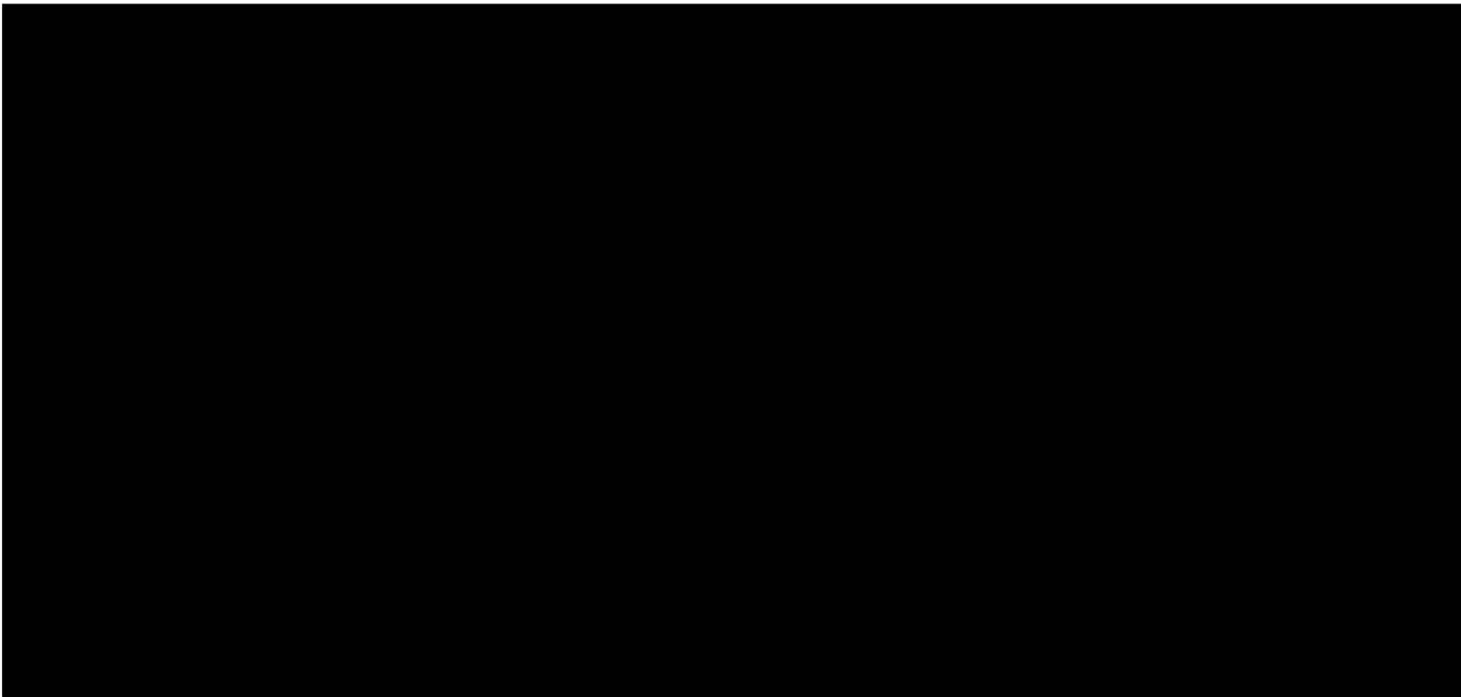
We had a [REDACTED] that we wanted to adopt. [REDACTED] lived with us a year and wanted us as [REDACTED] parents. We all belonged together as a family. Then DCS came over to take [REDACTED] away from us because we had 3 investigations on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We were cleared from all of those people who called on us. [REDACTED] They kept [REDACTED] phone and now [REDACTED] ipod and some of [REDACTED] memory books. I was told we did not write enough reports to them so they moved [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Just blame the foster family. [REDACTED] No one cares what [REDACTED] thinks.

This is [REDACTED] own stories:

[REDACTED]



I feel a big disappointment in the DCS team. I feel blamed for all kids mistakes all the dozen or so kids made here. We tried and we seam to have failed. I would love to adopt a boy and [REDACTED] I feel fostering was a grave mistake [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Matt [REDACTED]

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2016 11:29 PM
To: +DCS Policy Update
Subject: Public Input Regarding Foster Home Rules
Attachments: Letter to DCS about Foster Laws.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

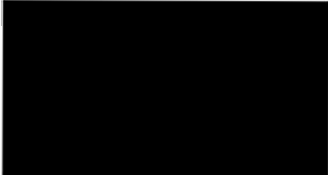
To Whom It May Concern,

I will be unable to attend the Public Meeting on September 20th, for foster families to give their input on the new foster home rules, guidelines and checklists, therefore I have attached a letter to this email addressing my concerns.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Tonya [REDACTED]



Arizona Department of Child Safety
PO Box 6030, S/C CH010-23A
Phoenix, Arizona 85005-6030

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to thank you for your vested interest in foster children and their families. I also want to thank you for giving foster parents the opportunity to give input regarding foster home rules and guidelines. Laws are usually made with good intentions, but until the actual interpretation and implementation of them are put into practice, it is difficult to assess the law's success or failure.

In December of last year, R21-6-311 concerning Bedrooms, Beds, and Bedding was added to the laws that foster parents must abide by. This law states, *"The placement of a foster child shall not displace another foster child or a household member from a bedroom . . . that accommodates the privacy and safety needs . . . demonstrated by:*

1. *Floor-to-ceiling walls, . . .*
6. *A window or door that opens directly to the outdoors and is accessible for emergency evacuation. . .*
- C. *A foster parent shall not use a space used as a closet, passageway, or primarily for purposes unrelated to sleeping as a bedroom. . . ."*

In March our home was inspected by the OLR for license renewal. We had planned to continue fostering, however, more requirements have been placed upon foster parents by the state since our last renewal. According to the inspector, we need to relocate our adult biological son to another room because his room is no longer considered a bedroom by the state (even though it was when we purchased the home a few years ago). The room he is currently sleeping in (on college breaks) has only one entrance and no outside access, so we have taken extra precautions in case of a fire. The issue is that if we move him to another "bedroom" within the home, we will have to place him with our recently adopted, toddler son. This would mean displacing our foster daughter (a toddler who has just turned two, and is in her fourth placement).

My husband and I had planned to convert our Arizona Room into the master bedroom so that we could take in more foster children by placing them in the current master bedroom. We were told that this plan would not be feasible, because the Arizona Room has too much foot traffic.

(To reach the backyard, a person must exit through the Arizona Room.) I know that R21-6-311 was made with good intentions, but it is a bad law the way it is written.

The sad thing is that ours is not the only home negatively affected by this law. Many foster families make adjustments and sacrifices in their sleeping arrangements in order to take in foster children. Arizona is going to lose willing foster parents because of these new limitations placed on the foster families. The question that must be answered is, "How many foster families is the state willing to sacrifice by allowing these unnecessary restrictions to remain in place?" Where are more lives going to be lost: in leaving starving, neglected, abused children in a drug home, or in allowing foster parents (under the supervision of their licensing agency) to determine what rooms would be best suited for their biological children and themselves. Those who have graduated from the PS-MAPP classes have already been asked to weigh the risks of bringing foster children into their home. *"Every risk is worth taking as long as it's for a good cause, and contributes to a good life"*—Richard Branson.

There are other poorly worded laws that place unnecessary restrictions on foster families, but I am focusing on this one because the state is going to force some loving families to forgo renewing their license because they just do not have the "bedroom space" to even house their biological children. The number of children coming into foster care in Arizona is alarming (17,000* in August of last year to 21,000* today). As the numbers rapidly increase we need more families, not fewer, to take in children. Please work to change R21-6-311 immediately. Together we can make the system better for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

Tonya [REDACTED]

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 8:31 AM
To: +DCS Policy Update
Subject: Opinion from a foster parent

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Under the new rules having to write up a minor incident report everytime I bring a child to the doctor is a waste of my limited time, my casemangers time and my licensing workers time. Especially if its for a medication dosage change, earache, or just checking out to see if a cold needs antibiotics. I notify my casemanager of all my dr appts regardless but two pages of paperwork in addition to this is redundant and wastes resources of an already stretched system. Its also rediculous to have to fill them out for bouncy toddlers who are constantly tripping falling and running into things. A simple picture sent to the casemanager via email is fast and doesnt bog us all down with endless ammounts of paperwork to fill out but tracks how what got where...

The other new rule I think that is going too far is the limit of eight kids to a home, every person has a different number of kids they can handle. I think the licensing worker who knows the family's strengths and weaknesses should be able to determine this based on how the children are being cared for on an ongoing basis and by walking alongside them in their journey. There are many good large families with many bios and adopted children who will no longer even be able to help with fostering because of this and you will have even less homes to choose from now. Our state doesnt need to decrease there foster family resources at this time. Many of these post adoptive families are well versed in how to handle difficult behaviors of foster children from years of working with them and a lot of newer smaller families simply don't know how to handle them and will disrupt easier. Plus having older children in the home who have gone through similar situations helps the new child to feel heard and known.

The last rule that doesnt make sense is the weapons rule. If guns and ammo can be stored seperately for safe keeping why can't all the other weapons be stored in the same manner? Unstringing a compound bow can mean you throw off the calibrations and it gets costly to redo that all the time. Simply storing the launching piece and the launcher seperately should be safe enough. Most pocket knives arent any sharper than steak knives and shouldnt be considered more dangerous as hunting knives but instead just safe guarded. If there is a safety concern for a violent behavioral kiddo maybe he/she shouldn't be placed in a non therapeutic home...but instead in a high needs group home...

Sincerely,
J. [REDACTED]
Fostermom

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 6:42 PM
To: +DCS Policy Update
Subject: New regulations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern. I have been a foster parent for 11 years. I have seen quite a few policy and procedural changes. I have adopted 10 amazing kids out of the system. At this point we really do not want to adopt, but want to help! We firmly believe these dear children do better in a family environment and it lessens the tax payer and government out go substantially, at least as far as I have been told.

When I heard of the changes being made I was very concerned. I wanted to know where this public forum was before the changes? We as a foster family were not notified.

I would like to speak first to the 8 child limit. I have just been granted an exception to that rule. I am grateful. I however think the answer to the problem is not shutting down good homes. Some women and men wether through birth or adoption should not have large families, some do well and could help many children! I am one who loves large families and wants to be judged on my merits. I feel that is what a licensing agency is in place for. They visit, they inspect, they get a feel for the home. They check on these sweet kids and help in their safe keeping. They as an agency should have the right to help regulate a safe number of children for each home. Not an abstract law and a law maker who sits at a desk and has never once been in the trenches doing the hard work. I again am grateful for the excess capacity option. I am saddened though by how many homes and children's life's this law will affect. A Group home as opposed to a family home? We all know the answer to where they belong.

Secondly OLR changes, It is completely ridiculous how often these rules are changed. I have had my home inspected at least every two years (moves or changes to my home) by OLR and twice a year or more by my agency and each time with out fail a new rule is implemented. Over regulation is not the answer! Good and bad foster families exist and that will not change no matter how many rules there are! The families who can't stand the heat will leave good or bad and the same for those who want to stay. For instance, we just had a \$1400 fence installed because a basement window well exits into the pool area. Two older adopted children reside in that room aged 10 and 11. According to OLR that must be fenced to cut off access to the pool at night, but if all children in my home were 7 years or older I could take all pool fencing down. Oh except if they sleep where they could access the pool at night. If a home with only 7 and older removes a pool fence and a child wants to swim day or night they will just use a door. The rules make no sense and they contradict one another. More than likely OLR will see pools should be fenced period! If history is any indicator the rule will change again and those who for some reason removed a fence will now have a large expensive rule to comply with again. I am frustrated with the lack of common sense and contradictory rules. Who audits these rules against eachother? Who reviews these rules? I complied in order to take one child and continue to help for as long as I am able. I want my kiddos who came from the system to continue to see it work and to help other kids or see other kids be helped to return home or to be adopted into their forever family. I realize I can never fully understand it from the legal and liability end. I also understand until you have opened your home you can never fully understand it from our end! I am raising a child that was beat severely in a previous foster home. I realize bad exists my son lives with the effects of those adults choices every day of his life. Again, over regulation is not the answer! More rules will not fix the problems. Kids will be kids and MUST be allowed to be kids! People who break rules will continue to do so, they are not intimidated by the number or severity of them sadly.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my feelings and concerns.

Sincerely,
Jamie

Senseman, Carrie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:23 AM
To: +DCS Policy Update
Subject: Licencing

Here's a idea,why not give incentive. Monies to licensing workers to turn in inspection,I know hrt does inspections in there homes,sooo,if there's foster homes in a subdivision,are they gonna require for neighbors to have a vet give neighbors dogs up to date?what about chickens,or birds? They all Carrie disease if not properly taken care of,arsenic gonna request a vet check on that?what about coyotes that are comming in close into neighborhood? What about turtles?you can get semolina. From them and improper care of fish tanks?I think there should be different rules for different areas,half the time when cps wants to place children, I have to ask the extended questions, like:are the children have algries?to they have a fear of any kind of animals?what is there religion?(because I can't go against our faith)Oooo,it just dawn on me,,,I guess if the rules get getting to where people are leaving the system,we can revert back to a failed system,and have a over load of prisons,doI sound mad???you bet!!! I'm sick and tired of following demands and complying with unnecessary demands,that comes out of my pocket,not state,or licensing agency,but out of my pocket,so keep up the good work,from what I'm hearing from other foster families, once there adoptions go threw, there leaving,again this Susan [REDACTED] have a good day from my Verizon Smartphone

General Condition and Cleanliness (R21-8-104)	
--	--

Yes/No

Interior clean, sanitary and disinfected to prevent/minimize/control illness

- Pet hair clumps
- Choking hazards
- Debris
- Dirty dishes in excess of 1 day
- Tubs, sinks toilets and showers free from excessive build-up
- Urine, feces, smoke or other noxious smell

Yes/No

Setting in good repair and free from damage that poses a hazard as defined in R-21-6-101.28

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken glass • Rusted surfaces • Jagged edged surfaces • Sharp surfaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protruding nails • Holes in walls • Holes in ceiling • Holes in floors |
|--|---|
- Broken items do not pose a hazard (*broken defined here as "operative or inoperative but fractured or damaged and no longer functions as intended"*)
 - Furniture
 - Appliances including but not limited to Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Small appliances
 - Fixtures including but not limited to sinks, tubs, showers, toilets, faucets
 - Equipment including but not limited to RV's, automobiles, trucks, boats, farm equipment

Yes/No

Setting is clean to the degree that the condition does not constitute a hazard defined in R-21-6-101.28

- Rotting food
- Stale or accumulated urine or feces
- Mold

Yes/No

Play areas and therapy equipment are stable and in good repair

- Area or equipment do not constitute a hazard defined in R-21-6-101.28
- Equipment does not tip or fall when used
- Trampoline pads have no rips, tears or patches, excessive wear or deterioration with no uncovered springs
- All therapy and play equipment functioning and not "broken" (*per above definition*)

Yes/No

Swing sets are securely anchored to the ground

- No leg leaves the ground when swing is in use and anchor can be verified

Yes/No

Garbage is removed from the premises at least once each week

Yes/No

Premises and play areas are free from insect and/or rodent infestation

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedbugs • Ants • Bees/Wasps/Hornets • Flies • Maggots | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mice/Rats • Roaches • Lice • Mosquitos • Termites |
|---|---|

Yes/No/NA

Pools defined in R-21-6-101.59 are not stagnant, and are clear enough to see the bottom

- Drained pools must be free of any standing water

- Yes/No Excessive weeds/brush that pose a hazard are trimmed or removed**
- Wildland grasses, weeds, desert scrub, shrubs with grass understory must be removed 30' from the structure per USDA Forest Service (www.FS.USDA.gov)

Safeguarding of Hazards (R21-8-105)

- Yes/No Highly toxic substances are in locked storage (substances that can cause serious bodily harm or death if improperly used) including but not limited to:**
- Gasoline
 - Lighter fluid
 - Pesticides
 - Automotive solutions
 - Drain cleaner
 - Ammonia
 - Bleach
 - Spray paint
 - Turpentine
 - WD-40
 - CLR
 - Goo-Gone
 - Lime Away
 - Caustic cleaners
 - Oven cleaner
 - Spray water repellent
 - Spray adhesives
 - Pool/spa chemicals
 - Acetone based nail polish remover
 - Nail polish
 - Weed killer
 - Any substance labeled "danger, fatal or poison"
 - Meets definition of "lock" in R21-6-101.45
- Yes/No Household cleaning supplies that are not intended for ingestion, but generally will not cause serious bodily harm or death if improperly used are safeguarded per R21-6-101.68 including but not limited to:**
- Spray cleaners
 - Laundry detergent (unless labeled as toxic)
 - Dishwasher detergent (unless labeled as toxic)
 - Household items labeled "keep out of reach of children" but not labeled as toxic
 - Child safety latches that do not require a key or tool to remove are not accepted devices to safeguard cleaning supplies on lower cabinets and shelves.
- Yes/No Access to grooming supplies not restricted (per case plan)**
- Includes toothpaste, hand soap shampoo, menstrual products, and deodorant.
- Yes/No Child's access is prevented as appropriate for developmental age for:**
- Poisonous materials (as detailed above)
 - Cleaning supplies (as detailed above)
 - Hazardous materials (as detailed above)
 - Substances containing alcohol
- Yes/No Ramps/bathtubs/showers have slip-resistant surfaces**
- Textured shower / tub bottom
 - Decals or textured strips
 - Grouted tile
 - Non-slip mats
- Yes/No/NA Handrails/grab-bars are securely attached and stationary**
- Shower stalls
 - Staircase
 - Porch / deck railings
- Yes/No/NA Skirting is intact around the base of the mobile home**
- All openings must be securely covered. Items propped to cover openings are not accepted.

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| Yes/No | First Aid supplies are maintained – Red Cross Recommendation below for a family of 4 | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 absorbent compress dressings (5 x 9 inches) • 25 adhesive bandages (assorted sizes) • 1 adhesive cloth tape (10 yards x 1 inch) • 5 antibiotic ointment packets (approximately 1 gram) • 5 antiseptic wipe packets • 2 packets of aspirin (81 mg each) • 1 blanket (space blanket) • 1 instant cold compress • 2 pair of non-latex gloves (size: large) • 2 hydrocortisone ointment packets (approximately 1 gram each) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scissors • 1 roller bandage (3 inches wide) • 1 roller bandage (4 inches wide) • 5 sterile gauze pads (3 x 3 inches) • 5 sterile gauze pads (4 x 4 inches) • Oral thermometer (non-mercury/non-glass) • 2 triangular bandages • Tweezers • First aid instruction booklet |

****OLR recommends a water temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit or below. The inspector will measure the water temperature and inform the family if higher than the recommended limit.***

Weapons and Firearms (R21-8-106)

- Yes/No/NA The following weapons are inoperable (*per Merriam-Webster “not capable of being used”*) and in a locked area* inaccessible to children and safeguarded per R21-6-101.68 to prevent unsafe or improper use:**
- Air guns
 - Bows and cross-bows
 - Stun guns
 - Hunting slingshots
 - Hunting knives
 - Any other projectile weapon

*A locked area does not include a room used for alternate purposes (ex: laundry room, garage, bedroom, clothing closet, pantry, bathroom, etc.)

Yes/No/NA Firearms are unloaded, trigger locked, and kept in a tamper-proof, locked storage container made of unbreakable material.

- Trigger locks are secure and properly installed on each firearm on the property
- Firearms are not locked in a storage container used for alternate purposes

* Operable and inoperable (*see above definition*) firearms are required to comply with all rules related to firearms, dismantling a firearm is not accepted

Yes/No/NA Ammunition is maintained in a locked storage separate from firearms

- Locked storage for ammunition requires a separate key/tool than the locked storage container for the firearms.

Yes/No/NA No firearm exception to be submitted per R21-8-106.B (???? Is this a yes or no question?)

Yes/No/NA For group home/foster group homes – no weapons are on premises

Animals (R21-8-107)

- Yes/No/NA No animals on premises pose a threat due to behavior/venom/disease**
 - Behavior is not threatening or aggressive
 - No venomous animals on the premises
 - No diseased animals on the premises
- Yes/No/NA All pets are vaccinated as dictated by state/tribal law**
 - Dog owners are required by Arizona Revised Statute to have their dogs vaccinated against rabies
- Yes/No/NA All dogs over 6 months of age have current rabies vaccine and record of vaccination is in the Home**

Storage of Medication (R-21-8-108)

- Yes/No Medication as defined in R21-6-101.46 is maintained in a securely fastened and locked storage**
 - A room or area that serves as an alternate purpose is not an acceptable method to lock medication (bathrooms, bedrooms, closets for daily use, laundry rooms, pantry's, garages, etc.)
 - Medication includes all prescription and over the counter remedies (pain relievers, cold and flu symptom relievers, cough suppressants, allergy symptom relievers, ointments, sprays, rinses, vitamins, essential oils, nutritional supplements, drink mixes, antacids, etc.)
- Yes/No Medication that may be assessed by a foster child per case plan (verification may be required) or medication which must be readily and immediately accessible is safeguarded per R21-6-101.68**
 - Asthma inhaler (primary inhaler only)
 - Auto-injector such as an Epi-Pen
- Yes/No Refrigerated medication is in locked storage and does not prevent a child's access to food in the refrigerator**
 - All refrigerated medication must be locked in its own lockable container in the refrigerator at all times (this includes and over the counter medication or remedies, albuterol, insulin, prescription medication, vitamins, etc.)
- Yes/No Double-lock system is in place for group homes**
 - Locks must not include a locked door for a room that serves as an alternate purpose (laundry room, garage, office, daily use closets, staff or child bathrooms, kitchens, staff or child bedrooms, etc.)

Safe Appliances (R21-8-109)

- Yes/No/NA Safe and functioning appliances are available for food refrigeration and cooking**
 - Perishable food items are stored in a functioning refrigerator at or below 41° Fahrenheit
 - An outdoor cooking appliance that uses charcoal or gas is not used indoors
- Yes/No Electrical lighting sufficient to perform normal activities is available in bedrooms/living areas/rooms used to provide services.**
- Yes/No Light sockets are equipped with light bulbs or securely covered**
- Yes/No Adequate heating/cooling/ventilation is available in bedrooms/living areas/and rooms used to provide services. Temperatures must be within the range of 65 degrees and 85 degrees**
- Yes/No At least one operational telephone is available on the premises**
 - Cell Phone / Digital Phone including VoIP / Land Line

*No phone exception to be submitted under R21-8-109.4

- Yes/No /NA All clothes dryers are safely vented with a non-flammable vent hose**
- Yes/No /NA Portable heaters meet all safety requirements**
 - Electric only
 - Not primary heat source
 - Not used in bedrooms
 - Protective covering to keep hands and objects away from heating element
 - UL approved per definition in R21-6-101.81
 - Equipped with a tip-over shut-off switch
 - Placed at least 3' from curtains, paper, furniture, and any flammable object when in use.
- Yes/No/NA A carbon-monoxide detector is properly located per manufacturer's instructions and is functioning on each level of the premises if the premises has any device or appliance using combustible fuel, including gas, oil, or wood. Including but not limited to...**
 - Fireplaces (gas, coal and wood burning)
 - Wood stoves
 - Gas stoves/ranges
 - Gas hot water heater
 - Gas dryer
 - Gas heat
 - Gas AC

Electrical Safety (R21-8-110)

- Yes/No All electrical cords are in good condition/repair**
 - No broken or frayed cords
- Yes/No Electrical panels and outlets are in good repair**
 - No wiring is exposed
 - Covers are in place
- Yes/No Extension cords are not used on a permanent basis**
 - Includes all extension cords on property (inside home, outside home, garages, tool sheds, barns, workshops)
 - Non-permanent basis is defined as less than 90 days (ex: Holiday decorations)
- Yes/No Electrical outlets are not overloaded**
- Yes/No Major appliances are plugged directly into grounded outlets**
 - Refrigerators
 - Freezers
 - Dishwasher
 - Stove / Oven
 - Washer
 - Dryer
 - Microwave
 - Furnace/Air handler
- Yes/No Mid-sized appliances are plugged directly into grounded outlets or into a power strip/surge protector which is plugged into a grounded outlet**
 - Computer equipment / Televisions / Stereo Equipment

Water and Plumbing Requirements (R-21-8-111)

- Yes/No A continuous source of safe drinking water is available**
- Yes/No/NA If setting uses a non-municipal water source including private well water or another source of water:**
 - The provider supplies a written water analysis report, showing the water is within acceptable state and federal standards for drinking water for the age of the children in care, including the date testing was completed
 - The analysis and report were obtained from a laboratory certified by the Arizona Department of Health Services as part of the initial licensing process and before each renewal

- Yes/No Sewage disposal is functioning**
- No back-up evident in bathroom, under sinks or in bathtub/shower
 - No leakage from the ground if using a septic tank/cesspool
- Yes/No One working toilet/wash basin/shower or tub is available for every 7 persons living in the home (including foster placements and household members)**

Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan Requirements (R-21-8-112)
--

- Yes/No Premises is free from obvious fire hazards**
- Yes/No Heating equipment is equipped with appropriate safeguards and maintained as recommended by manufacturer (including required installation clearances)**
- Yes/No Flammables and combustibles are more than 3' from water heaters/portable heaters/fireplaces/woodstoves**
- All items must be cleared within a 3' parameter of the hot water heater
 - Exceptions would be...
 - Appliances (refrigerator, washer, dryer, freezer)
 - Metal cabinets (no exposed flammable materials)
 - Household building materials (walls, doors, ceilings) (required installation clearances must apply)
- Yes/No Working fireplace/woodstove is protected by an appropriate fire screen**
- Working means that the fireplace/stove has the ability to function, whether the family utilizes the appliance is irrelevant
- Yes/No Working fire extinguisher with a rating of at least 2A 10BC is available in the kitchen area**
- Yes/No Working fire extinguishers with a rating of at least 2A 10BC are on each level of a multi-level Setting**
- Tri level homes must have a working fire extinguisher with a rating of at least 2A10BC on each level regardless of separation between floors
 - Usable rooms above garages, usable attic spaces, and basements are considered levels in a home
- Yes/No At least one working UL approved smoke detector is installed in the living/program area**
- A smoke detector placed in the hallway is not sufficient to meet the requirements, one working detector must be installed in each living/program area
- Yes/No At least one working UL approved smoke detector is installed in in each bedroom**
- Every bedroom in the home
 - A bed, futon, or other furniture typically used for sleeping designates the room as a bedroom
- Yes/No At least one working UL approved smoke detector is installed on each level of a multi-level Setting**
- Two story and Tri level homes must have a working smoke detector on each level regardless of separation between floors in the living/program area
 - If a living/program area is not present on a level in the home installation of the smoke detector in the hallway will be accepted
 - Usable rooms above garages, usable attic spaces, and basements are considered levels in a home

- Yes/No** **A written emergency evacuation plan is available which complies with R21-8-112.6**
- Two routes of emergency evacuation are available from each bedroom with at least one direct exit to the outside which does not exit into the **pool enclosure**
 - Multiple exits are identified from the home
 - All windows identified as emergency exits are large enough for an adult to move through
 - Identify the location of fire extinguishers and fire evacuation equipment, including rope or chain ladders and emergency lighting if applicable.
 - Designate a safe central meeting place close to the home, known to the child, at a safe distance from potential danger (cannot be inside the home or a fire hydrant)
 - No emergency exits include exiting through the garage door
 - Posted in a prominent place in the home
- Yes/No** **Records available citing review of emergency evacuation plan reviewed within 72 hours of placement**
- Records will be verified by inspector
 - Initial inspections must have a form developed to show how the records will be maintained in the setting
- Yes/No/NA** **Records available of emergency exit drills if the premises is authorized to provide care to 5 or more children in setting citing a drill at least every 3 months.**
- Yes/No** **Exits routes from the home are clear of obstruction**
- Items located on the inside of the exit and the outside of the exit are clear of obstructions
- Yes/No** **Locks on exterior doors are equipped with an approved quick release mechanism (per definition) or meet the exception as described in R21-8-112.11.a.b.c**
- A quick release mechanism is a lock that can be opened from the inside of the setting without special knowledge (such as a combination) or equipment (such as a key)
 - An exception may be granted if the following criteria are met
 - There is breakable glass within 40 inches of the interior locking mechanism
 - There is another exit with a quick release mechanism on the same level of the premises
 - The key for the deadbolt is permanently maintained in a location that is..
 - Within 6' of the locking mechanism
 - Accessible to all household members
 - Reviewed with the persons residing in or receiving care in the home
 - Identified on the emergency evacuation plan
- Yes/No** **The address for the setting:**
- Is posted and visible from the street or
 - All local emergency response teams are notified in writing of the location of the home with a copy of the notification visually verified by the inspector
- Yes/No** **Emergency phone numbers are posted in a prominent place in the home**
- Poison control
 - Non emergency local police department
 - 911
 - Family emergency contact
 - Crisis hotline

Pool Safety (R21-8-113)

Yes/No/NA Pool complies with ARS §36-1681 <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/36/01681.htm>

Yes/No/NA If deeper than 6' has a shepherd's crook attached to a pole

Yes/No /NA If deeper than 6' has a ring buoy attached to a rope measuring at least ½ the distance across the pool plus 10'

Yes/No/NA Fence/barrier meets the following:

- Exterior is at least 5' high
- Exterior free of footholds/handholds
- If chain-link/lattice/mesh, openings in the mesh are less than 1¾" horizontally
- Openings measure less than 4"
- Horizontal components are at least 45" apart vertically
- Connection between the panels cannot be separated without a tool or key
- Fence is secured to the ground or has sufficient tension to prevent being lifted more than 4" from the ground at all points
- Gates are self-closing and self-latching and the mechanism is functional and opens away from the pool (all gates must be in full compliance including side yard gates and RV gates. If a gate cannot be made to be self-closing, self-latching, and open away from the pool it must be secured to not open.)
- Latch is at least 54" above the ground and is locked with a key or combination lock
- Has a working pump and filtration system if not emptied after each use

Yes/No/NA If pool is drained:

- Complies with this fencing rule (which will allow children 6 and younger)
- Is "safeguarded" per R21-8-105 (which will not allow children 6 and under)

Yes/No/NA If the home/building constitutes any part of the barrier

- The enclosure does not interfere with safe egress from the home
- A door from the home does not open within the pool enclosure or is permanently locked or barricaded with no key accessible to a child in care
- No windows in a bedroom designated for use by a child in care open into the pool enclosure
- Other windows opening into the pool enclosure are permanently secured to open no more than 4"

To be in full compliance for children under the age of 7 all bedrooms must have a usable exit which leads directly to the outside. OLR will not approve any bedrooms with locked windows leading into a pool enclosure unless there is a secondary window or door which provides an emergency evacuation out of the same bedroom which does not open into the enclosure. Locking a bedroom window would violate R21-8-112 B "Two routes of emergency evacuation are available from each bedroom which does not enter into the pool enclosure". A pool enclosure is determined as meeting all requirements of **Pool Safety (R21-8-113)*

Yes/No/NA Hot Tubs and spas must have safety covers that are locked when not in use

- In addition a hot tub/spa is required to be fenced in compliance with R21-8-113 B for homes providing care to a child of six years of age or less.
- If drained fenced or unfenced (which will allow children 6 and younger)
 - is disconnected from power at all times
 - is disconnected from water source at all times
 - has cover that is locked at all times



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Preparation Guide

Life Safety Inspections

Office of Licensing and Regulation
602-255-2801

LSIQuestions@azdes.gov

Table of Contents

Life Safety Inspection Overview/Background	3
Welcome Message.....	3
Purpose of Inspection	3-4
What to Expect.....	4-5
Use of this Guide.....	5
Areas Inspected & Standards (All Residents).....	6
General Condition and Cleanliness (R21-8-104).	7-8
Safeguarding of Hazards (R21-8-105).	8-10
Storage of Medication (R21-8-108).	11
Safe Appliances (R21-8-109).	12
Electrical Safety (R21-8-110).....	12-13
Water and Plumbing Requirements (R21-8-111).	13
Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan Requirements (R21-8-112).....	14-18
Areas Inspected & Standards (If Applicable).....	19
General Condition and Cleanliness (R21-8-104).	20
Safeguarding of Hazards (R21-8-105).	20
Weapons and Firearms (R21-8-106).	21-23
Animals (R21-8-107).....	23
Storage of Medication (R21-8-108).	24
Safe Appliances (R21-8-109).	24-25
Water and Plumbing Requirements (R21-8-111).	25
Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan Requirements (R21-8-112).....	26
Pool Safety (R21-8-113).....	27-32
Areas Inspected & Standards (Child Welfare / Group Foster Homes).....	33
Weapons and Firearms (R21-8-106).	34
Storage of Medication (R21-8-108).	34
Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan Requirements (R21-8-112).....	34
Definitions	35-37
Emergency Evacuation Plan Review Log.....	38
Emergency Evacuation Plan & Emergency Phone Numbers.....	39-40
Emergency Evacuation Drill Log.....	41
Home Evaluation	42

Welcome Message

On behalf of the Department of Child Safety, Office of Licensing and Regulation, thank you for entering the process to become a licensed Foster Parent. We know each of you have entered into this endeavor for personal reasons to join us in giving children in DCS custody the safe and caring environment they require to grow and mature into successful adults. There are several steps to being granted a license to provide foster care. One of them is the Life Safety Inspection of your residence. We have compiled this Preparation Guide for you to use in preparation for this process. Once again, thank you for your assistance in this important mission.

Purpose of the Life Safety Inspection

The Life Safety Inspection (LSI) is a vital part of the licensing process. The children that come into the care and custody of the The Department of Child Safety (DCS) have done so due to varying circumstances. Some have entered into our care due to abusive situations and others due to neglect. It is no light matter to remove children from the custody of established family members or guardians. However, when we are required to do so, we have to guarantee the situation they are placed into is safe. Over the years there have been numerous areas that have been identified as common safety hazards that need to be guarded against. Over time these have been codified and incorporated in to Arizona Administrative Code Rule 21, Chapter 8, Article 1.

Many times, prospective foster parents wonder why these need to be done or why we inspect to the level that we do. Other prospective foster parents feel these inspections are unnecessary because they have successfully raised children of their own and never had any issues.

We understand your confusion and feelings that maybe we are being overly restrictive. To alleviate those feelings, let us clarify why we do the things we do. As touched upon earlier, the children that come into our custody have wide ranging environmental conditions. For example; some may never have been exposed to a pool, and therefore never had pool safety ingrained into their lifestyle. Many of these children also have pre-existing behavioral and cognitive challenges that may impact the safety of their environment. Due to these factors, we have to

come together as a team to make sure the residential environment they enter is as safe as possible to prevent them from inadvertently injuring themselves.

Please keep in mind, you probably never had any problems with the children you raised, because you raised them from birth, or during their formative years and they learned safety around certain items and under certain conditions. The children you will be caring for may not have had that luxury. Therefore, we must ensure the opportunities for injury due to environmental conditions are mitigated as much as possible.

In closing, if you have biological children or young relatives, imagine if they needed to reside with a stranger due to a family emergency, how in depth would you want an inspection of that residence to be? That is the same standard we are utilizing.

What to Expect

Prior to a member of DCS-OLR coming to your residence to conduct the formal LSI, a member of your licensing agency should conduct a pre-inspection and give guidance on how to remedy any deficiencies. Once you have passed the pre-inspection you will be scheduled to have the formal LSI conducted by DCS-OLR.

This inspection will be conducted on your "premises" which is defined as: "the home; and the property surrounding the home that is owned, leased, or controlled by the provider."

During this inspection, ALL areas of the premises in which a child in out of home care resides, or may have access to, which includes; all dwellings on the premises, including sheds, mobile homes, trailers, cottages, any other buildings located on the property, and yard will be examined. Please remember, this is not done to invade your privacy, but to ensure the safe living condition for the children in your home.

Prior to either of the inspections (Pre or Formal) review this guide to prepare for them and ensure compliance with the areas inspected. Do not assume if you live in an apartment or have a private residence that was recently constructed that they will automatically pass the LSI without preparation. Your apartment or private residence may be compliant with local city or building code; however, LSI standards are higher in many areas.

By reviewing this guide and being within the listed standards prior to DCS-OLR conducting the formal inspection you will prevent potentially extending the time frame for the licensing process due to re-inspection for non-compliance.

Formal inspections are conducted by DCS-OLR during the following circumstances: at initial licensure, every two (2) years for license renewal, if you relocate, remodel your residence, and for license reinstatement.

Use of this Guide

You will find this guide divided into areas which apply to ALL homes; and areas that only apply if certain conditions are present on the premise, such as weapons and firearms are pools.

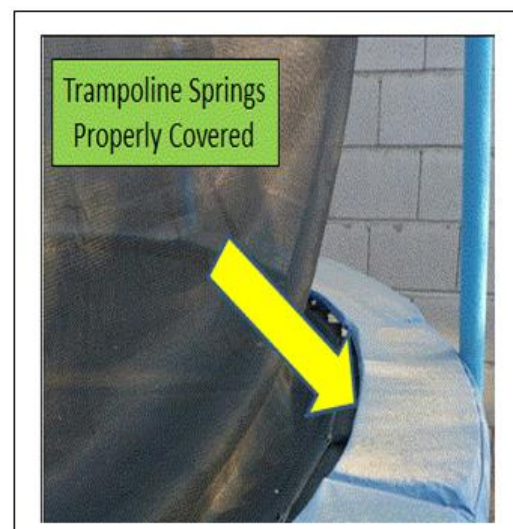
Please take the time to review these and make sure you are in compliance. If you have any questions, please contact either your licensing agency or the DCS-OLR LSI Unit at LSIQuestions@azdes.gov.

Areas Inspected & Standards

***Areas that apply to ALL
Residences
(#1-40)***

General Condition and Cleanliness (R21-8-104)

1. Y N **Interior clean, sanitary and disinfected to prevent/minimize/control illness**
 - Pet hair clumps
 - Choking hazards
 - Debris
 - Dirty dishes, excess of 1 day
 - Tubs, sinks toilets and showers free from excessive build-up
 - Urine, feces, smoke or other noxious smell
2. Y N **Home/premises in good repair and free from damage that poses a hazard**
 - Broken glass
 - Rusted surfaces
 - Jagged edged surfaces
 - Sharp surfaces
 - Broken items do not pose a hazard (*broken defined here as “operative or inoperative but fractured or damaged and no longer functions as intended”*)
 - Furniture
 - Appliances including but not limited to Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Small appliances
 - Fixtures including but not limited to sinks, tubs, showers, toilets, faucets
 - Equipment including but not limited to RV’s, automobiles, trucks, boats, farm equipment
 - Protruding nails
 - Holes in walls
 - Holes in ceiling
 - Holes in floors
3. Y N **Home/premises is clean to the degree that the condition does not constitute a hazard**
 - Rotting food
 - Stale or accumulated urine or feces
 - Mold
4. Y N **Play areas and therapy equipment are stable and in good repair**
 - Area or equipment do not constitute a hazard
 - Trampoline pads have no rips, tears, patches, excessive wear, deterioration, and no uncovered springs
 - All therapy and play equipment functioning and not “broken”



5. Y N **Garbage is removed from the premises at least once each week**

6. Y N **Premises and play areas are free from insect and/or rodent infestation**

- Bedbugs
- Mice/Rats
- Ants
- Roaches
- Bees/Wasps/Hornets
- Lice
- Flies
- Mosquitos
- Maggots
- Termites

7. Y N **Excessive weeds/brush that pose a hazard are trimmed or removed**

- Wildland grasses, weeds, desert scrub, shrubs with grass understory must be removed 30' from the structure per USDA Forest Service (www.FS.USDA.gov)

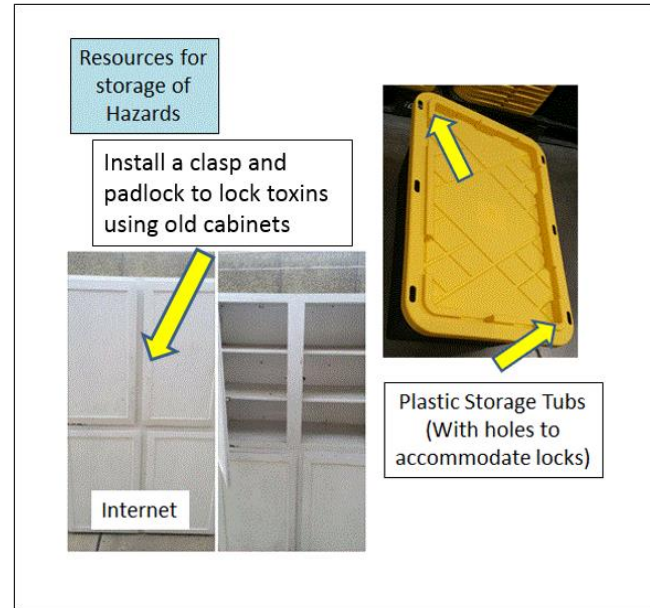
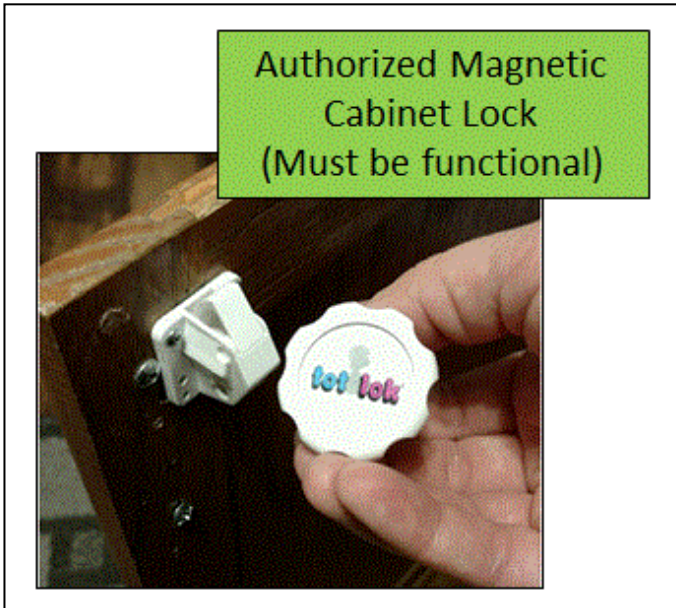


Safeguarding of Hazards (R21-8-105)

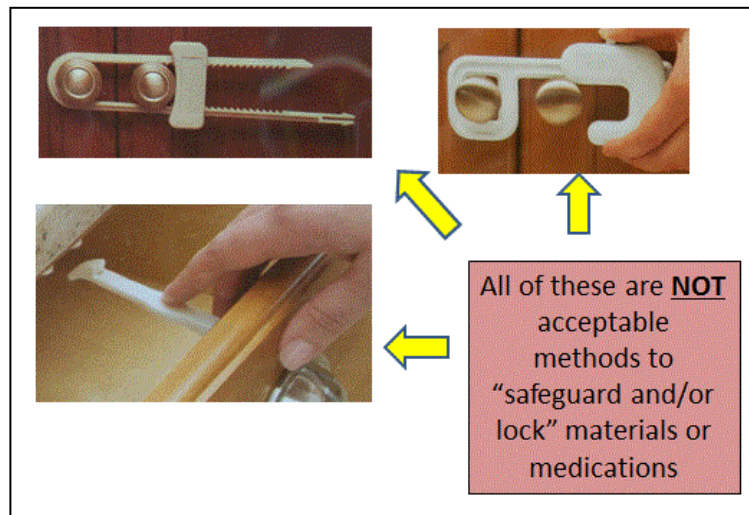
8. Y N **Highly toxic substances are in locked storage (substances that can cause serious bodily harm or death if improperly used) Example Hazard Statements may include:**

- Fatal if swallowed
- Toxic if Swallowed
- Harmful if swallowed
- May be harmful if swallowed
- Highly flammable liquid and vapor
- Danger
- Poison
- Highly flammable liquid and vapor
- Danger
- Poison





9. **Y N** Household cleaning supplies that are not intended for ingestion, but generally will not cause serious bodily harm or death if improperly used are safeguarded. Example of safeguarded label statements may include: Warning or Caution.



10. **Y N** Access to grooming supplies not restricted (per case plan)

- Includes toothpaste, hand soap shampoo, menstrual products, and deodorant.

11. **Y N** Child's access is prevented to:

- Poisonous materials
- Cleaning supplies
- Hazardous materials
- Substances containing alcohol

12. Y N **Ramps/bathtubs/showers have slip-resistant surfaces**

- Textured shower / tub bottom
- Decals or textured strips
- Grouted tile
- Non-slip mats

13. Y N **First Aid *supplies* are maintained – an instruction book is *recommended*. The following is the MINIMUM supply requirement**

- absorbent compress dressings (Examples: Combine Dressing, non-stick pads, surgical dressings, trauma pads, etc.)
- adhesive bandages (assorted)
- adhesive tape (cloth, paper, foam, or self-adherent wrap)
- antibiotic ointment (locked)
- anti-itch ointment (locked)
- non-latex gloves
- cold compress (instant or in the freezer)
- elastic roller bandage (ACE)
- sterile gauze pads
- antiseptic wipes (Alcohol prep pads)



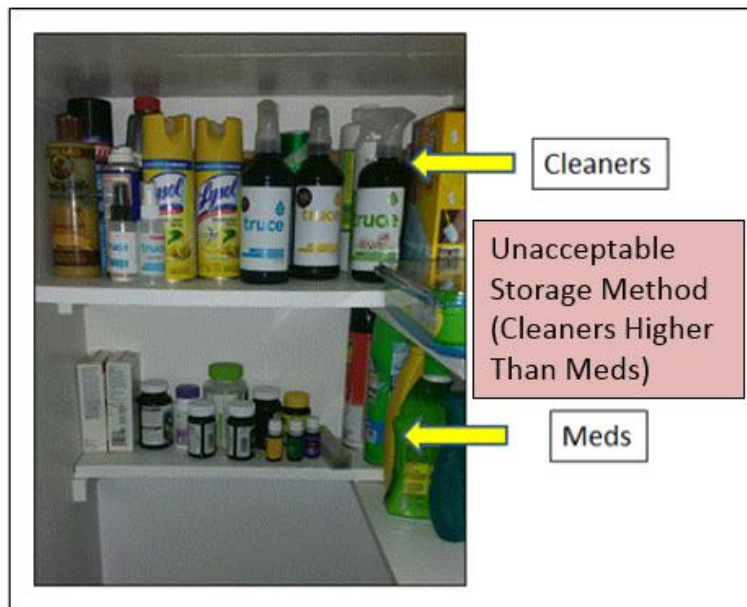
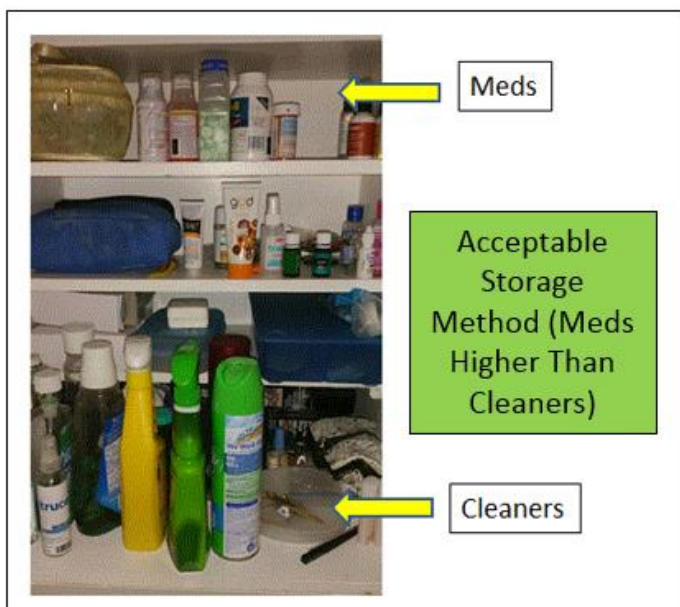
****OLR recommends a water temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit or below. The inspector will measure the water temperature and inform the family if higher than the recommended limit noting this on the form being left with you.***

Storage of Medication (R21-8-108)

14. Y N Medication is maintained in securely fastened and locked storage*

- Medication includes all prescription, over the counter remedies, vitamins (liquid, gummy, and tablet form), essential oils, ointments, sprays and rinses, antacids, etc.

*Locked storage does not include a room used for alternate purposes (ex: laundry room, garage, bedroom, clothing closet, pantry, bathroom, etc.)

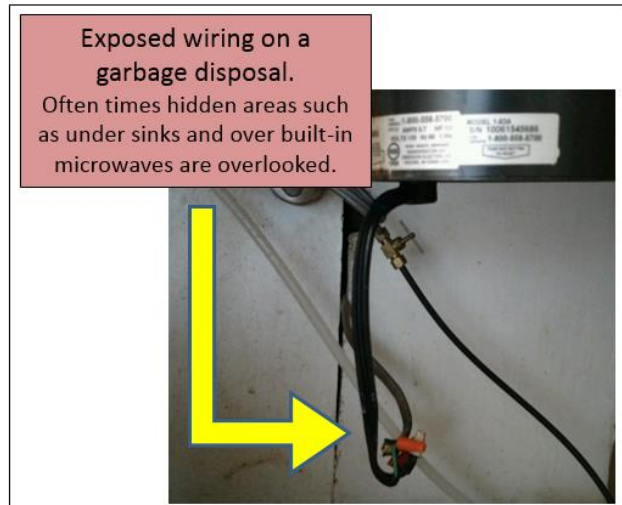
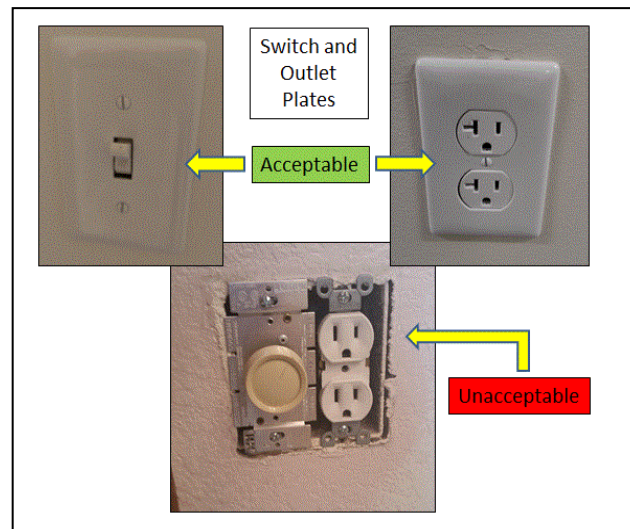
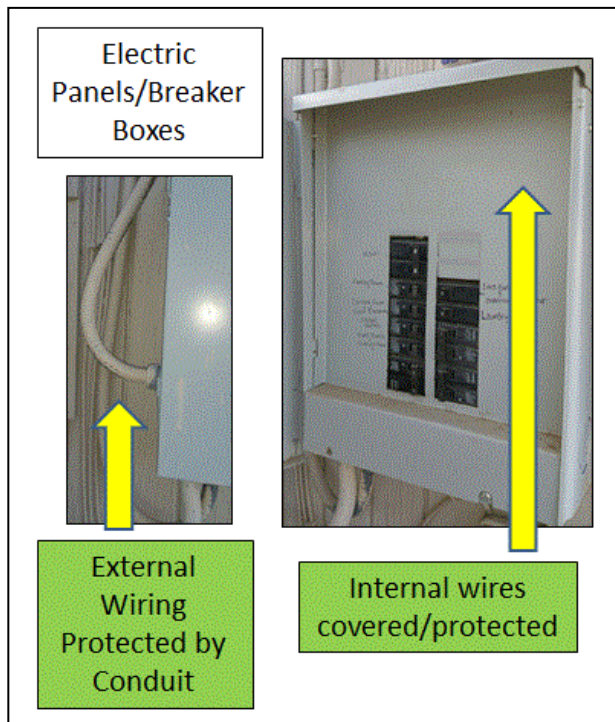


Safe Appliances (R21-8-109)

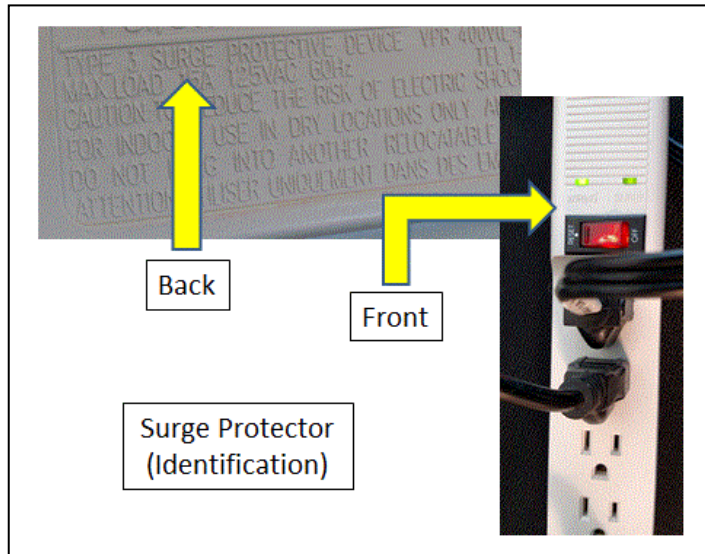
- 15. Y N Safe and functioning appliances are available for food refrigeration and cooking**
- Perishable food items are stored in a functioning refrigerator at or below 41° Fahrenheit
 - An outdoor cooking appliance that uses charcoal or gas is not used indoors
- 16. Y N Electrical lighting sufficient to perform normal activities is available in bedrooms and living areas**
- 17. Y N Light sockets are equipped with light bulbs or securely covered**
- 18. Y N Adequate heating/cooling/ventilation is available in bedrooms and living areas**
- Temperatures outside of the range of 65 degrees and 85 degrees may indicate an issue with heating and cooling systems in the home.
- 19. Y N At least one operational telephone is available on the premises**
- Cell Phone / Digital Phone including VoIP / Land Line

Electrical Safety (R21-8-110)

- 20. Y N All electrical cords are in good condition/repair**
- No broken or frayed cords
- 21. Y N Electrical panels and outlets are in good repair**
- No wiring is exposed
 - Covers are in place



22. Y N **Extension cords are not used on a permanent basis**
- Includes all extension cords on property (inside home, outside home, garages, tool sheds, barns, workshops)
 - Non-permanent basis is defined **as less than 90 days** (ex: Holiday decorations)
23. Y N **Electrical outlets are not overloaded**
24. Y N **Major appliances are plugged directly into grounded outlets**
- Refrigerators
 - Freezers
 - Dishwasher
 - Stove / Oven
 - Washer
 - Dryer
 - Microwave
 - Furnace/Air handler
25. Y N **Mid-sized appliances are plugged directly into grounded outlets or into a power strip/surge protector which is plugged into a grounded outlet**
- Computer equipment / Televisions / Stereo Equipment



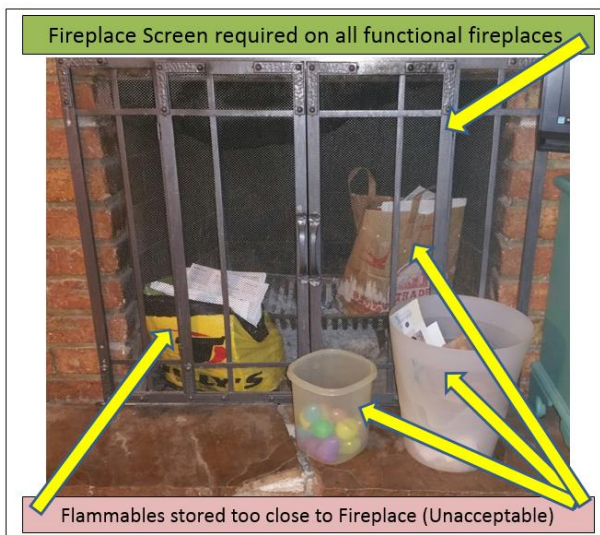
Water and Plumbing Requirements (R21-8-111)

26. Y N **A continuous source of safe drinking water is available**
If home uses a non-municipal water source including private well water or another source of water see #55 for requirements
27. Y N **Sewage disposal is functioning**
- No back-up evident in bathroom, under sinks or in bathtub/shower
 - No leakage from the ground if using a septic tank/cesspool
28. Y N **One working toilet, wash basin, and shower or tub is available for every 7 persons living in the home (including foster children, persons living in the home and persons receiving care in the home)**

Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan Requirements (R21-8-112)



29. Y N Premises is free from obvious fire hazards
30. Y N Heating equipment is equipped with appropriate safeguards and maintained as recommended by manufacturer
- including required installation clearances
31. Y N Flammables and combustibles are more than 3' from water heaters, portable heaters, fireplaces, and woodstoves.
- All items must be cleared within a 3' parameter of the hot water heater and tankless systems
 - Applies to both gas and electric hot water heaters.

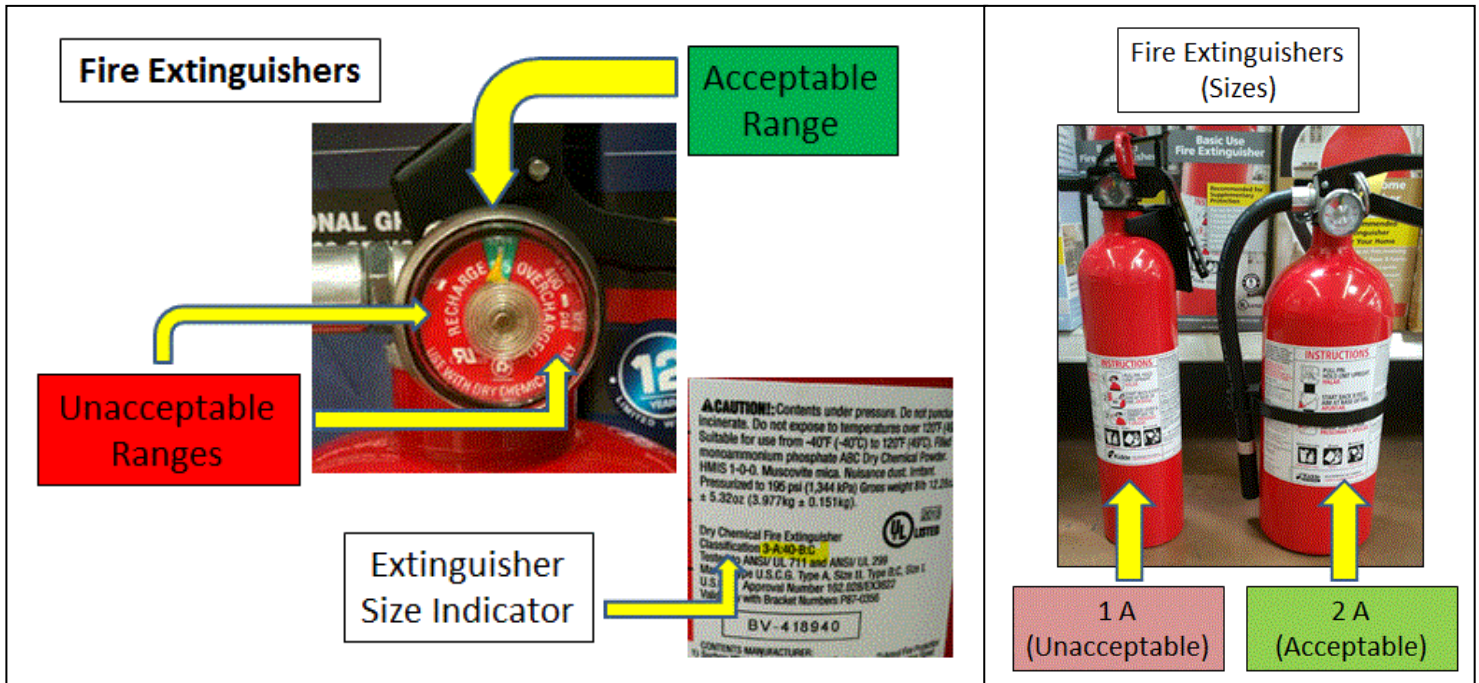


Exceptions of items placed within 3' would include...

- * Appliances (refrigerator, washer, dryer, freezer)
- * Water softener
- * Metal cabinets (no exposed flammable materials)
- * Household building materials (walls, doors, ceilings)
(required installation clearances must apply)

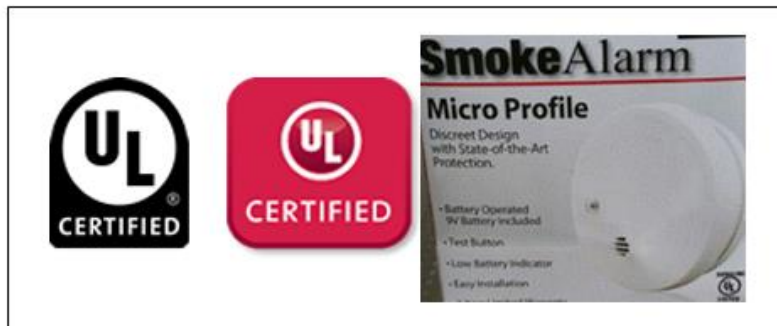
32. Y N **A Working fire extinguisher with a rating of at least 2A 10BC is available in the kitchen area**

- Must be “full” or within the green zone
- Replace when gauge falls into the “Recharge” or “Empty” zone



33. Y N **At least one working UL* approved smoke detector is installed in each living area**

- All smoke detectors in the home will be verified “tested” during the inspection
- A smoke detector placed in the hallway is not sufficient to meet the requirements
- Areas to install would be living room, family room, den or media room, game room, etc. A room frequently utilized by members of the home for daily use.
**UL Underwriters Laboratories (A nonprofit safety testing organization)*



34. Y N **At least one working UL* approved smoke detector is installed in in EACH BEDROOM**

- Every bedroom in the home regardless of occupant
- A bed, futon, or other furniture used for sleeping designates the room as a bedroom
**UL Underwriters Laboratories (A nonprofit testing facility)*

35. Y N A written emergency evacuation plan is available in the setting

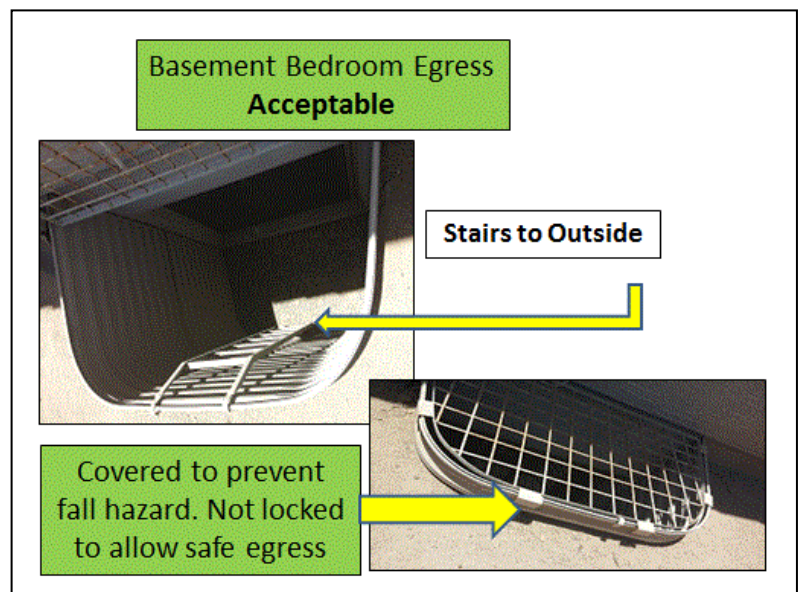
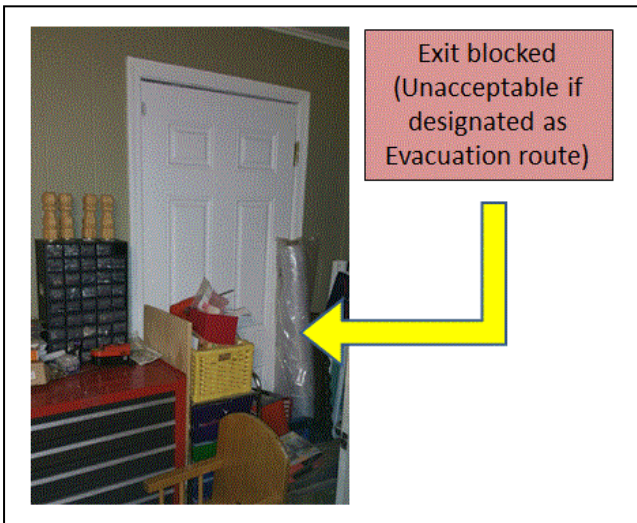
- Identify two routes of evacuation from each bedroom on every floor. At least one of the exit routes for these bedrooms leads directly to the outside of the home. A direct exit is one with no barriers between the bed and the window or door. This may include interior doors and/or locking mechanisms added to windows requiring a tool, device, or key to remove.
- The direct exit leading to the outside of the home from each bedroom shall not lead into an area that serves as a pool enclosure. (See #68 regarding pool enclosure definition)
- Multiple exits are identified from the home.
- All windows identified as emergency exits are large enough for an adult to move through
- Identify the location of fire extinguishers and fire evacuation equipment, including rope or chain ladders and emergency lighting if applicable.
- Designate a safe central meeting place close to the home, known to the child, at a safe distance from potential danger (cannot be inside the home or a fire hydrant)
- No emergency exits include exiting through the garage door
- Posted in a prominent place in the home

36. Y N Records available citing review of emergency evacuation plan reviewed within 72 hours of placement

- OLR Standardized form “Emergency Evacuation Plan Review Log” will be verified at each inspection, including initial inspections. Must be completed for children of all ages, 0-17.

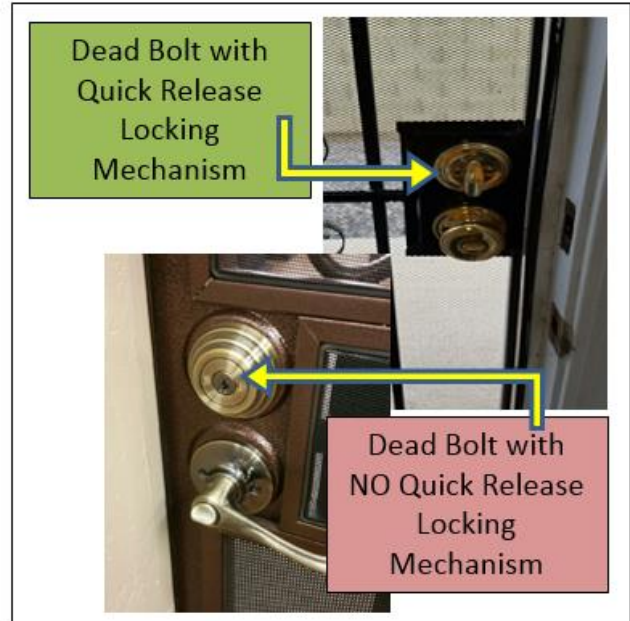
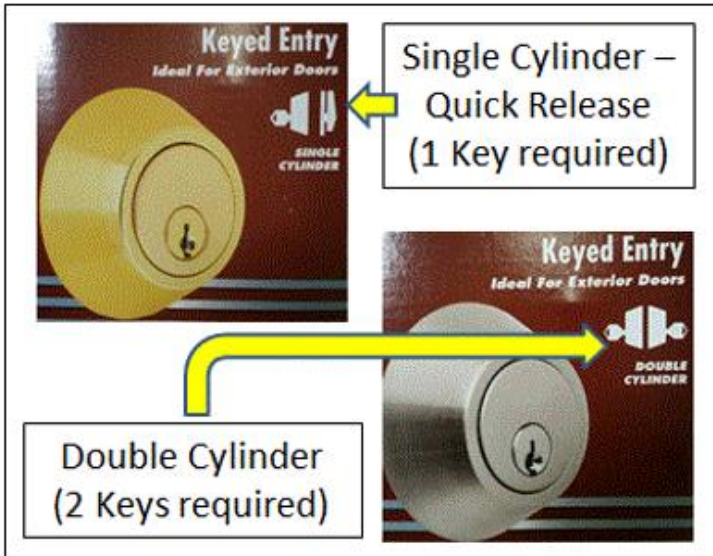
37. Y N Exits routes from the home are clear of obstruction

- Items located on the inside of the exit and the outside of the exit are clear of obstructions



38. Y N Locks on exterior doors are equipped with an approved quick release mechanism or meet the exception as described below...

- Includes Front Door, Screen Doors, Security Doors, and Bars on Windows
- A quick release mechanism is a lock that can be opened from the inside of the home without special knowledge (such as a combination) or equipment (such as a key or tool).



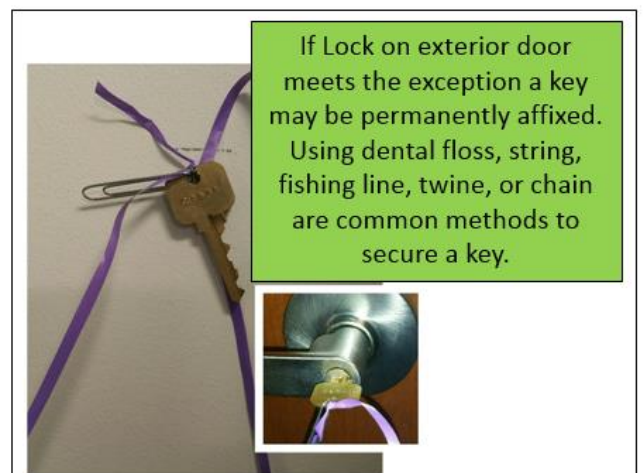
An exception may be granted if the following criteria are met

- There is breakable glass within 40 inches of the interior locking mechanism (breakable mesh screen would be in lieu of breakable glass on security door installations for locks installed on the security door only) AND
- There is another exit with a quick release mechanism on the same level of the premises

If the above criteria has been met then the key for the deadbolt is permanently maintained in a location that is...

- Within 6' of the locking mechanism
- Accessible to all household members
- Reviewed with the persons residing in or receiving care in the home
- Identified on the emergency evacuation plan

**permanently maintained means the key is attached to a string or chain, attached securely to a nail or hook, with the string/chain long enough to reach the lock. The key must not be able to be carried away from the permanent location.*



39. Y N The address for the home:

- Is posted and visible from the street or
- All local emergency response teams are notified in writing of the location of the home with a copy of the notification visually verified by the inspector

40. Y N Emergency phone numbers are posted in a prominent place in the home:

- Emergency Police and Fire - 911
- Poison control – 1-800-222-1222
- Non-emergency local police department
- Family emergency contact
- Crisis hotline

**prominent means in clear view without any obstructions.*

Areas Inspected & Standards

***Areas that apply ONLY if items
listed in this section (#41-67)
are present on the premises***

General Condition and Cleanliness (R21-8-104)

41. Y N Swing sets are securely anchored to the ground

- No leg leaves the ground when swing is in use and anchor can be verified



Safeguarding of Hazards (R21-8-105)

42. Y N Handrails/grab-bars are securely attached and stationary

- Shower stalls
- Staircase
- Porch / deck railings

43. Y N Skirting is intact around the base of the mobile home

- All openings must be securely covered. Items propped to cover openings are not accepted.

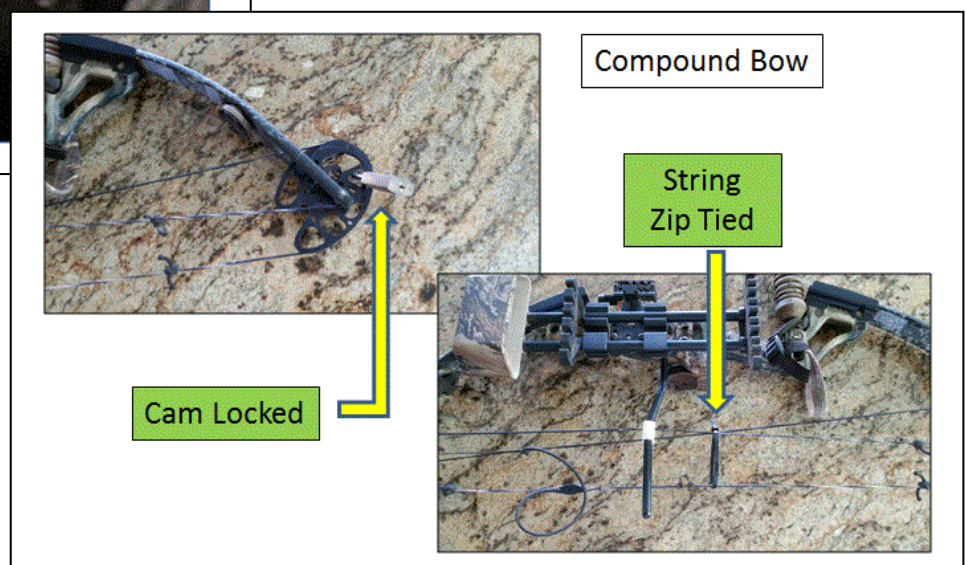
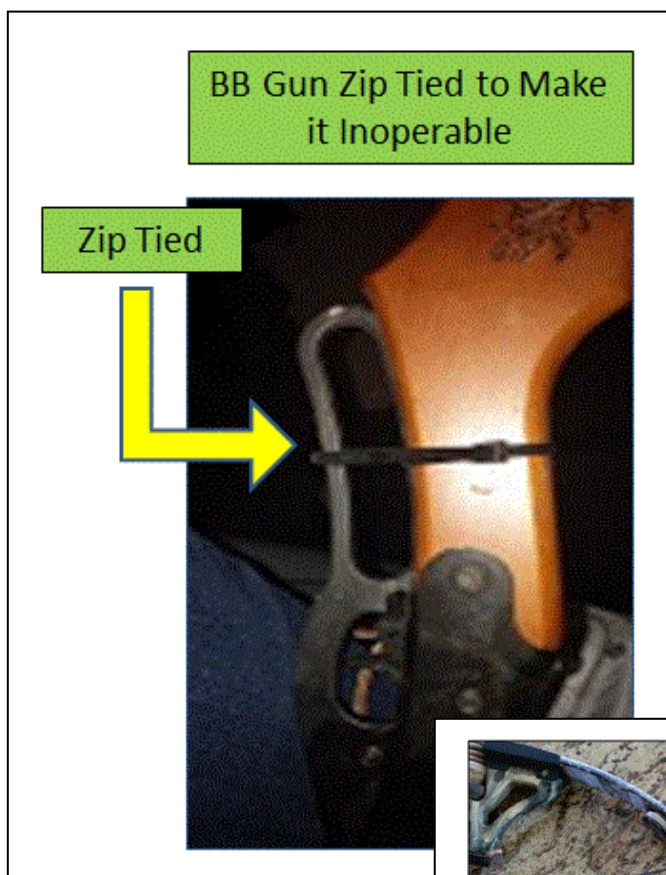


Weapons and Firearms (R21-8-106)

44. Y N The following weapons are **INOPERABLE** (per Merriam-Webster “not capable of being used”) AND in a **LOCKED AREA*** inaccessible to children and safeguarded to prevent unsafe or improper use:

- Air guns – trigger lock, cable lock, zip tie pump action
- Bows and cross-bows – Remove string, lock Cam, or lock string to prevent draw
- Stun guns – Remove projectile
- Hunting slingshots – remove sling
- Hunting knives – Locked in a safe or alternate storage container
- Any other projectile weapon

*A locked area does not include a room used for alternate purposes (ex: laundry room, garage, bedroom, clothing closet, pantry, bathroom, etc.)



45. Y N **Firearms must meet ALL THREE COMPONENTS listed below...**

A. Unloaded

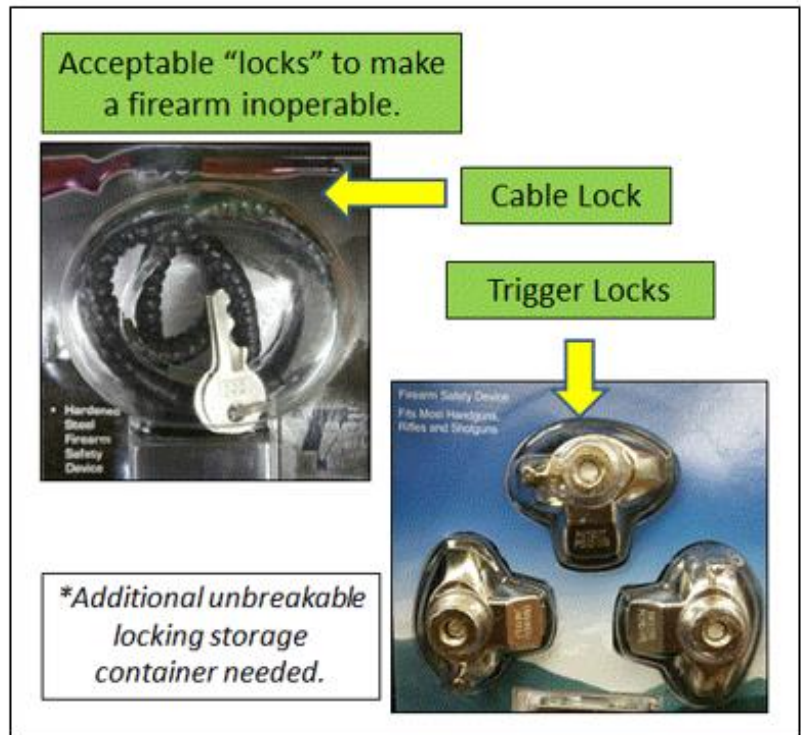
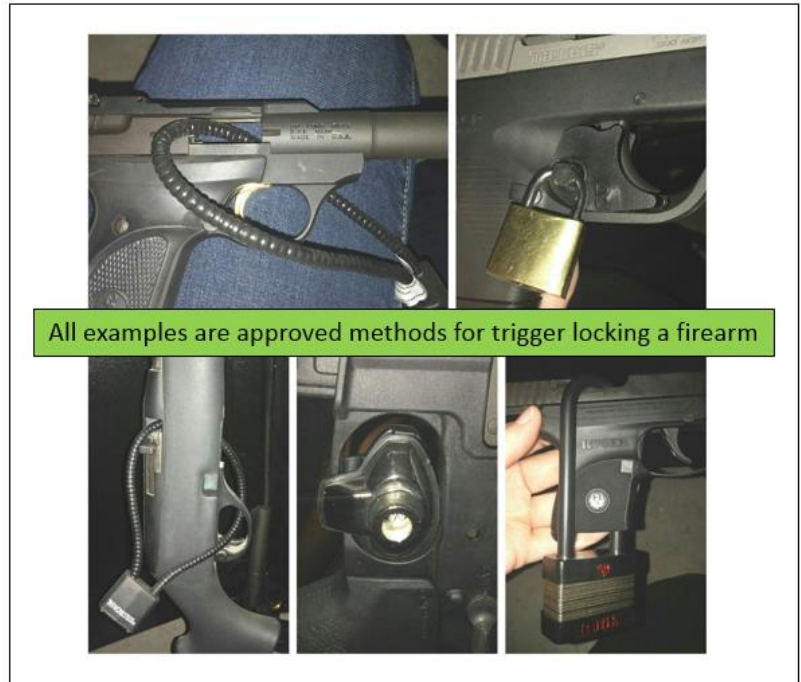
B. Trigger locked

- Trigger locks are secure and properly installed on each firearm on the property

C. Kept in a tamper-proof, locked storage container made of unbreakable material.

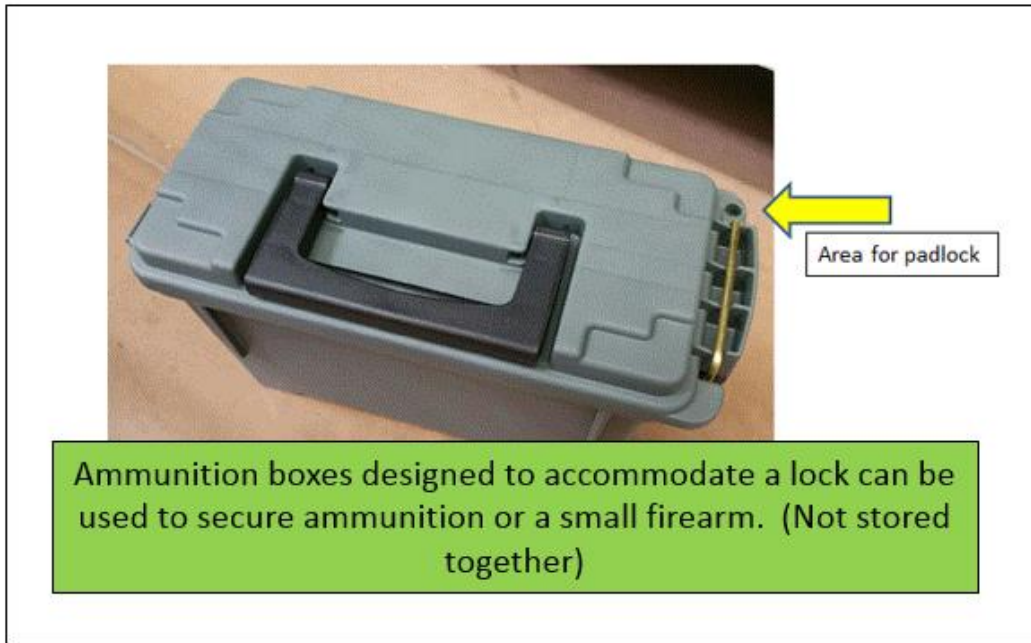
- Firearms are not locked in a storage container used for alternate purposes

** Operable and inoperable firearms are required to comply with all rules related to firearms, dismantling a firearm is not accepted*



46. Y N Ammunition is maintained in a locked storage separate from firearms

- Locked storage for ammunition requires a separate key/tool than the locked storage container for the firearms.
- Ammunition includes: bullets, arrows, BB's, pellets, etc.



Animals (R21-8-107)

47. Y N No animals on premises pose a threat due to behavior/venom/disease

- Behavior is not threatening or aggressive
- No venomous or diseased animals on the premises

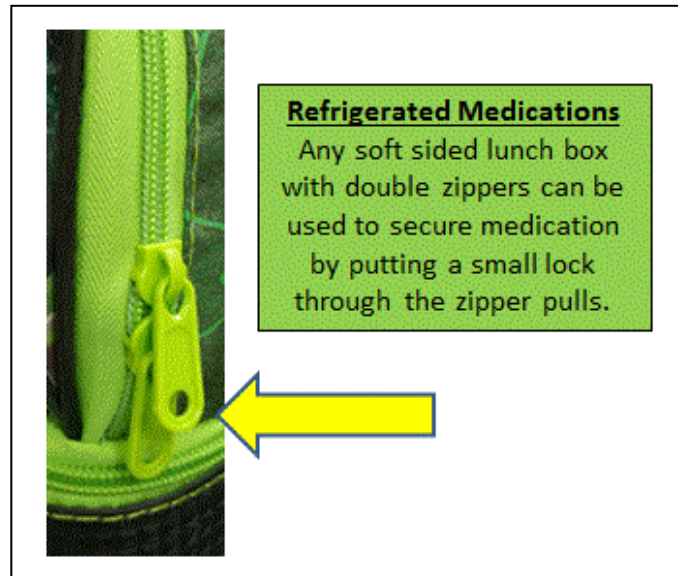
48. Y N All dogs over 6 months of age have current rabies vaccine and verification is at the setting

- Dog owners are required by Arizona Revised Statute to have their dogs vaccinated against rabies
- Self-administered rabies vaccinations are not accepted
- All dogs on the premises must have verification at the setting regardless of length of stay
- Must show vaccination record for ALL dogs at the time of the inspection

Storage of Medication (R21-8-108)

49. Y N **Refrigerated medication is in locked storage and does not prevent a child's access to food in the refrigerator**

- Medication includes all prescription, over the counter remedies, vitamins (liquid, gummy, and tablet form), essential oils, ointments, sprays and rinses, antacids, etc.



50. Y N **Medication that may be accessed by a foster child per case plan are safeguarded (verification may be required)**

- Example: Foster child is required to take prescriptions as detailed in case plan. Medication would still be required to be locked, preventing access to other children in the home. Child could have their own lockbox with key or combination which would restrict access to the other children in the home yet allow the specified medication to be accessible to them

51. Y N **Medication which must be readily and immediately accessible is safeguarded**

- Asthma inhaler (primary inhaler only)
- Auto-injector such as an Epi-Pen

Safe Appliances (R21-8-109)

52. Y N **All clothes dryers are safely vented with a non-flammable vent hose**

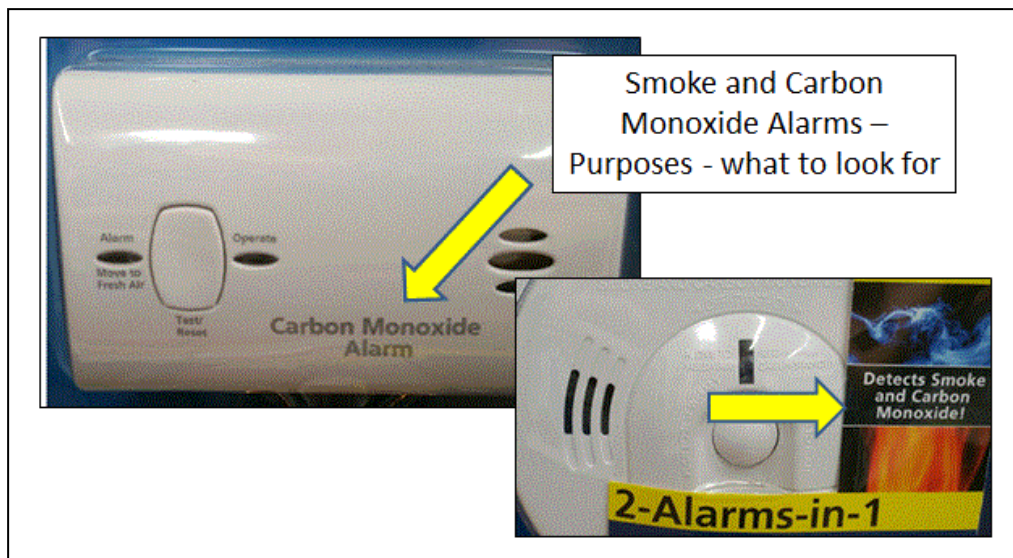
- Plastic vent hoses are not accepted

53. Y N **Portable heaters (Space heaters) meet all safety requirements**

- Electric only
- Not used in bedrooms
- Not primary heat source
- UL* approved
- Equipped with a tip-over shut-off switch
- Protective covering to keep hands and objects away from heating element
- Placed at least 3' from curtains, paper, furniture, and any flammable object when in use.

54. Y N **A carbon-monoxide detector-alarm is properly located according to manufacturer's instructions and functioning on each level of the premises that has an appliance or heating device using combustible**

- Fireplaces (gas, coal, and wood burning)
- Wood stoves
- Gas stoves / ranges
- Gas hot water heater
- Gas dryer
- Gas heat



Water and Plumbing Requirements (R21-8-111)

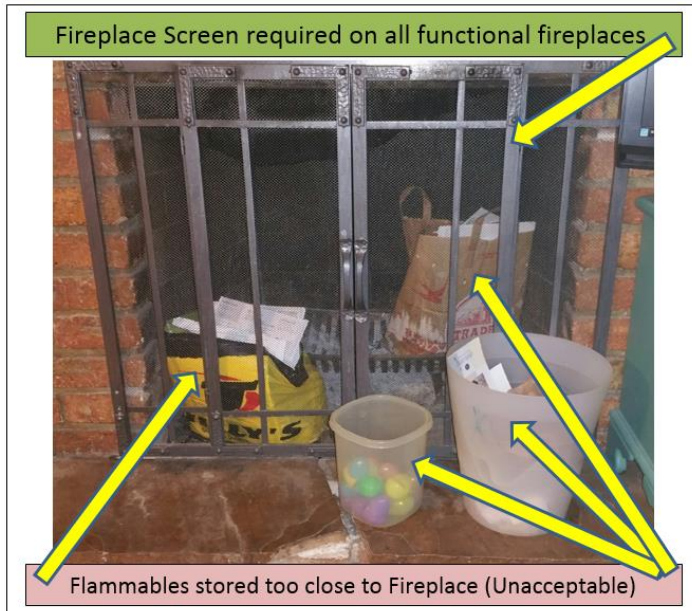
55. Y N **If home uses a non-municipal water source including private well water or another source of water:**

- The provider supplies a written water analysis report, showing the water is within acceptable state and federal standards for drinking water for the age of the children in care, including the date testing was completed
- The analysis and report were obtained from a laboratory certified by the Arizona Department of Health Services as part of the initial licensing process and before each renewal
- For assistance with locating a certified laboratory go to www.azdhs.gov

(Insert water testing requirements)

Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan Requirements (R21-8-112)

56. Y N Working fireplace or woodstove is protected by an appropriate fire screen sufficient to shield the room from open flames and flying embers



* Working means that the fireplace/stove has the ability to function, whether the applicant/licensee utilizes the appliance is irrelevant

* Does not apply to outdoor fire pits, outdoor fireplaces, or chiminea's.

57. Y N A working fire extinguisher with a rating of at least 2A 10BC is on each level of a multi-level home

- Tri level homes must have a working fire extinguisher with a rating of at least 2A10BC on each level regardless of separation between floors
- Usable rooms above garages, usable attic spaces, and basements are considered levels in a home

58. Y N At least one working UL* approved smoke detector is installed on each level of a multi-level home

- Two story and Tri level homes must have a working smoke detector on each level regardless of separation between floors in the living/program area
- If a living/program area is not present on a level in the home installation of the smoke detector in the hallway will be accepted
- Usable rooms above garages, usable attic spaces, and basements are considered levels in a home

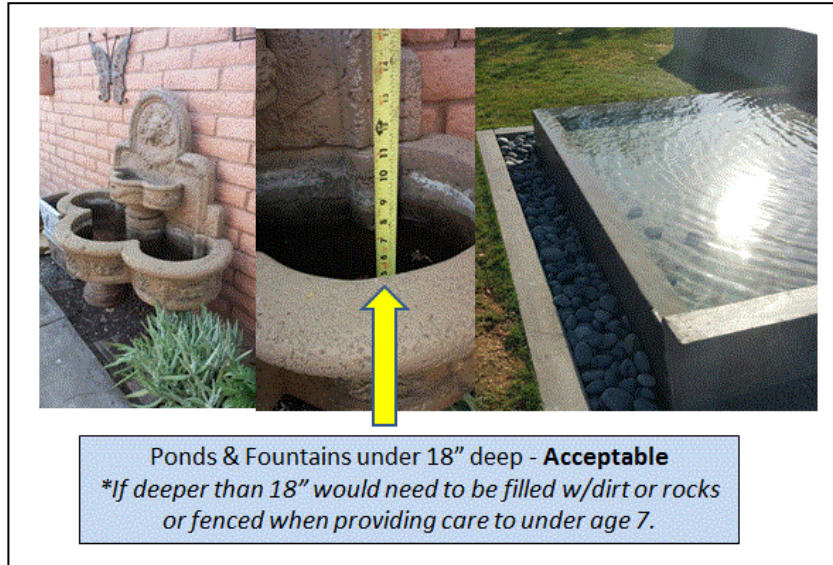
**UL Underwriters Laboratories (A nonprofit safety testing organization)*

59. Y N Records available of emergency exit drills if the premises is authorized to provide care to 5 or more children in home citing a drill at least every 3 months

Pool Safety (R21-8-113)

“Pool” means any natural or man-made body of water located at a foster home or on its premises that:

- a. Could be used for swimming, recreational, therapeutic, or decorative purposes;
- b. Is greater than 18 inches in depth; and
- c. Includes swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, fountains, and fishponds.

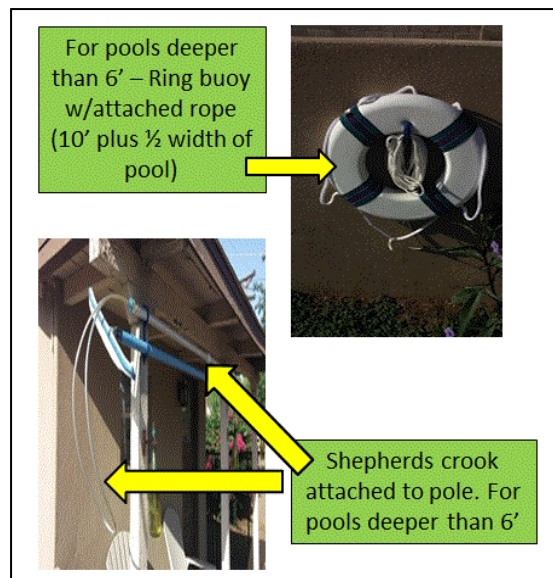


60. Y N Pool complies with ARS §36-1681

61. Y N Pools are not stagnant, and are clear enough to see the bottom

- Drained pools must be free of any standing water

62. Y N If deeper than 6' has a shepherd's crook attached to a pole AND a ring buoy attached to a rope measuring at least ½ the distance across the pool plus 10'

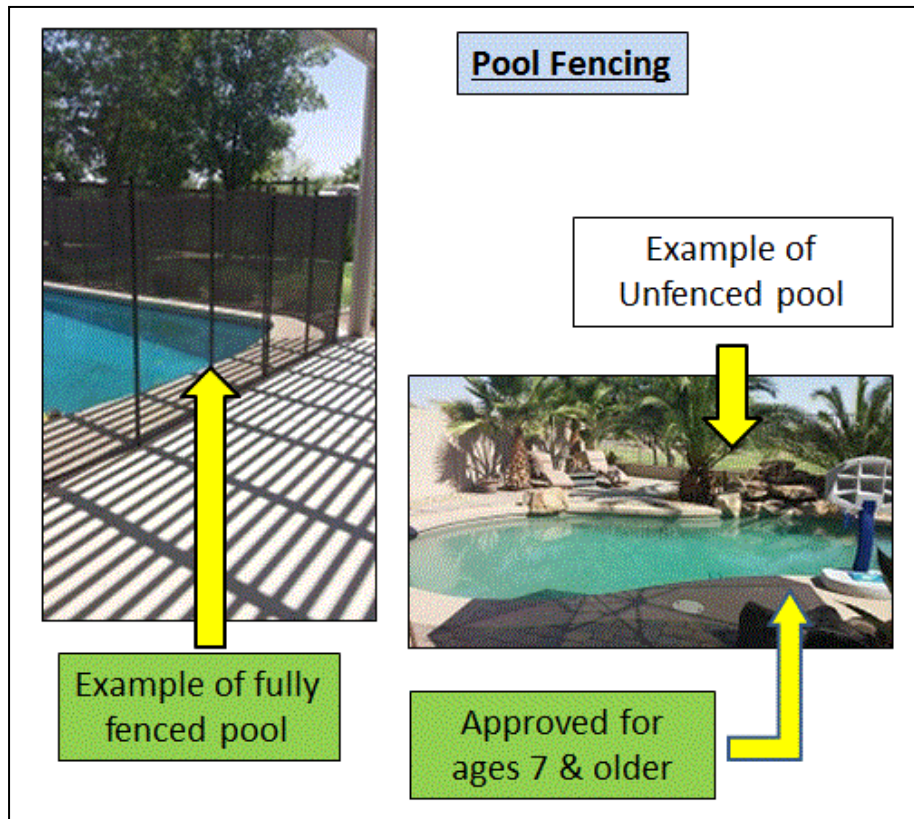


63. Y N **Has a working pump and filtration system if not emptied after each use**

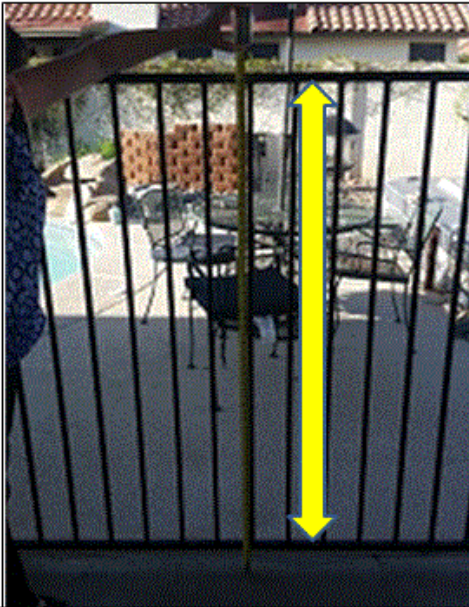
64. Y N **Fence/barrier meets the following:**

(For homes that provide care to a child six years of age or less)

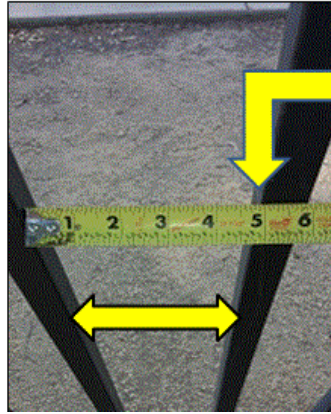
- Exterior is at least 5' high
- Exterior free of footholds/handholds
- If chain-link/lattice/mesh, openings in the mesh are less than 1³/₄" horizontally
- Openings measure less than 4"
- Horizontal components are at least 45" apart vertically
- Connection between the panels cannot be separated without a tool or key
- Fence is secured to the ground or has sufficient tension to prevent being lifted more than 4" from the ground at all points
- Gates are self-closing and self-latching and the mechanism is functional and opens away from the pool (all gates must be in full compliance including side yard gates and RV gates. If a gate cannot be made to be self-closing, self-latching, and open away from the pool, it must be secured to not open.)
- Latch is at least 54" above the ground and is locked with a key or combination lock



Pool Fence
Measuring Fence Height

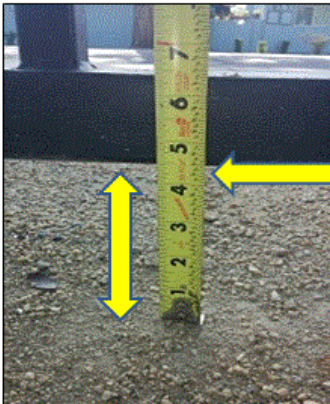


Pool Fences
No spaces greater than 4"



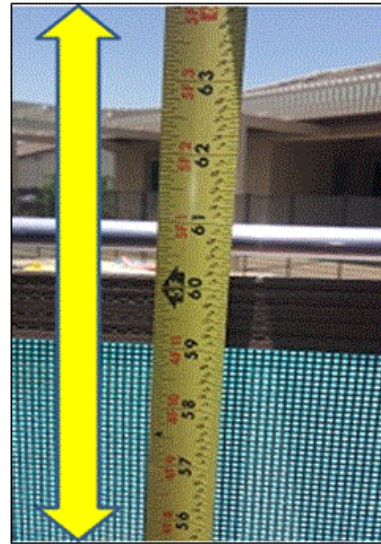
Unacceptable

Pool Fences
No space greater than 4"



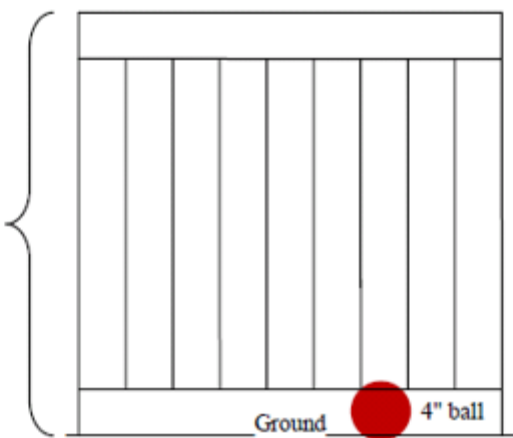
Unacceptable

Pool Fence
Acceptable height 60" minimum



60 inches measured from the ground to the top horizontal bar.

This meets the minimum height standard for a pool fence.



← Top horizontal bar
← Upper horizontal bar

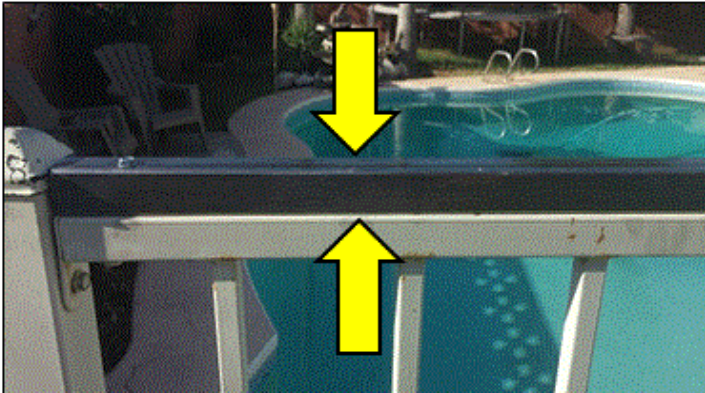
52 inches of uninterrupted vertical space.

This meets (actually exceeds) the minimum standard of 48 inches.

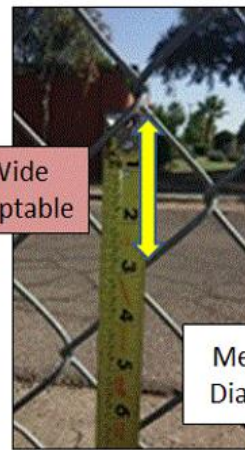
← Lower horizontal bar

Pool Fence

Example of one way to increase fence height to required 5'



Chain Link – No spaces greater than 1 3/4"



Too Wide
Unacceptable

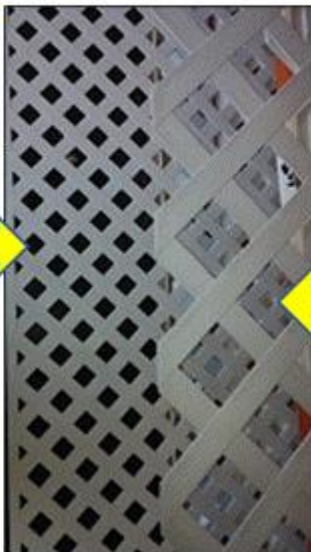


Acceptable,
measures 1 3/4"
diagonally

Measured
Diagonally

Pool Fences
Method to resolve excessive
bar width

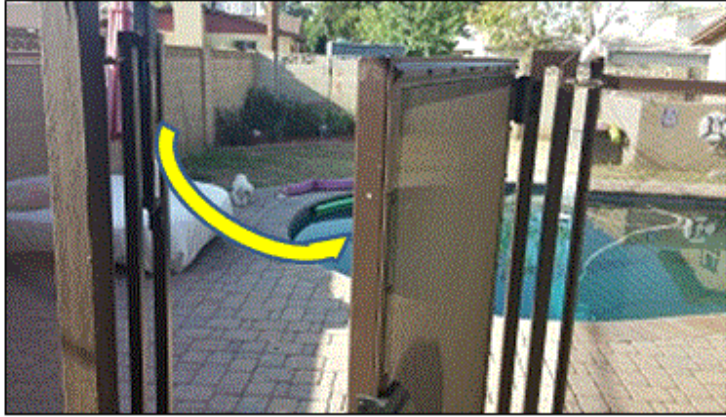
Acceptable
measurement width
(1 3/4" or less)



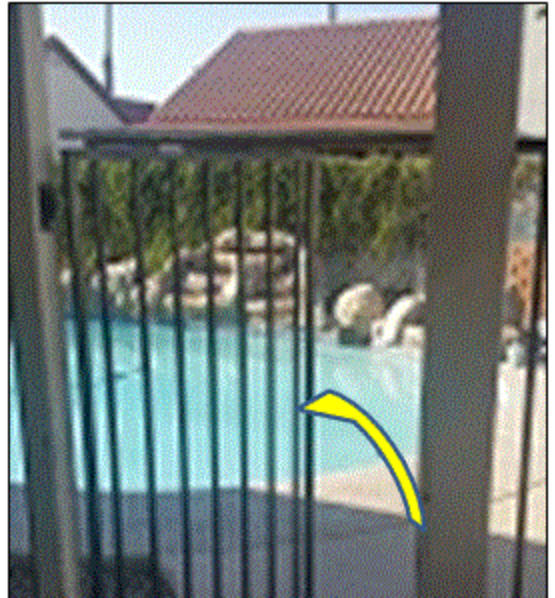
Permanently
affix over
vertical bars to
cover opening

Unacceptable
measurement width
(greater than 1 3/4")

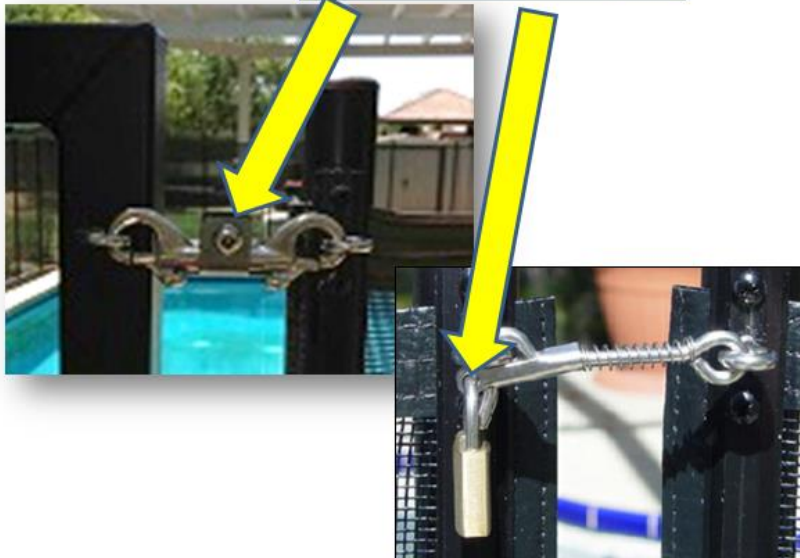
Pool Fence
Gate opens away from the pool
Acceptable



Pool Gate
Gate Opens inward
Unacceptable



Mesh Fence
Locks required at each
connection point
Requires a tool to open



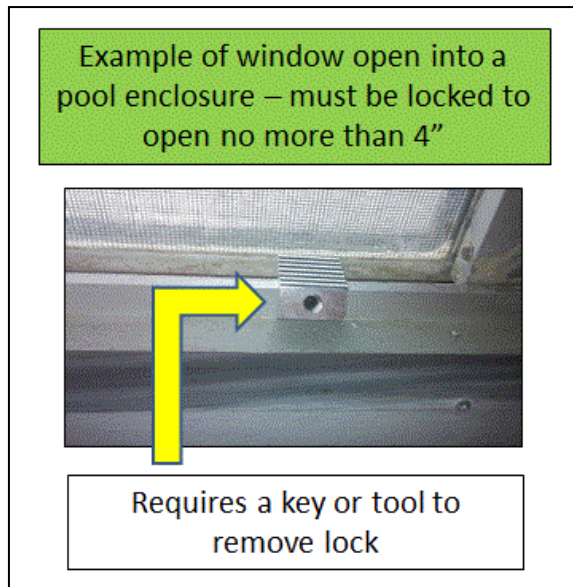
65. Y N **Hot Tubs and spas must have safety covers that are locked when not in use**
(For homes that provide care to a child six years of age or less)

- A hot tub or spa is required to be fenced for homes providing care to a child of six years of age or less.
- Hot tubs and spas that are drained (fenced or unfenced)
 - is disconnected from power at all times (Must be available to have verified by inspector. A breaker switched to OFF is not disconnected from power)
 - is disconnected from water source at all times
 - has cover that is locked at all times

66. Y N **If pool is drained:**

- Licensure for children 6 years of age or less: Complies with fence/barrier rules detailed above
- Licensure restricted to children 7 years of age or more: Is “safeguarded”

67. Y N **If the home/building constitutes any part of the barrier**



* The enclosure does not interfere with safe egress from the home

* A door from the home does not open within the pool enclosure or is permanently locked or barricaded with no key accessible to a child in care

* No windows in a bedroom designated for use by a child in care open into the pool enclosure

* Other windows opening into the pool enclosure are permanently secured to open no more than 4”

**To be in full compliance to provide care to children 6 years of age or less all bedrooms must have a usable exit which leads directly to the outside. Restricting a bedroom's direct exit to the outside by locking a window or permanently locking/barricading a door to meet compliance for R21-8-113B, regardless of the occupant, could violate R21-8-112 B if that window or door is the only exit from the bedroom that leads directly to the outside. (See #56 on this worksheet for further detail on bedroom exit requirements for all individuals residing in or receiving care in the home)*

A pool enclosure is defined as meeting all requirements of R21-8-113 B, C, D & F.

07/12/2016

Areas Inspected & Standards

***Areas that apply to ALL
Child Welfare Group
Homes / Facilities AND
Group Foster Homes
(#68-70)***

“Group foster home” means a class of foster home in which the licensed foster parent is certified to provide care to more than five but not more than 10 foster children at a time. “Group foster home” is further defined under A.R.S. § 8-501.

Weapons and Firearms (R21-8-106)

68. Y N Weapons are not permitted in a Child Welfare Agency residential group care facility or group foster home.

Storage of Medication (R21-8-108)

69. Y N A Child Welfare Agency provider shall use a Double-lock system for all medications on the premises

- Locks must not include a locked door for a room that serves an alternate purpose (laundry room, garage, office, daily use closets, staff or child bathrooms, kitchens, staff or child bedrooms, etc.)

Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan Requirements (R21-8-112)

70. Y N Records available of emergency exit drills if the premises is authorized to provide care to 5 or more children in home citing a drill at least every 3 months

Definitions

As Prescribed in R21-6-101, R21-8-101, & R6-5-7401

“Child welfare agency” or “agency”(R6-5-7401)

a. Means:

i. Any agency or institution maintained by a person, firm, corporation, association, or organization to receive children for care and maintenance or for 24-hour social, emotional, or educational supervised care or who have been adjudicated as a delinquent or dependent child.

ii. Any institution that provides care for unmarried mothers and their children.

iii. Any agency maintained by the state, or a political subdivision thereof, person, firm, corporation, association, or organization to place children or unmarried mothers in a foster home.

b. Does not include state operated institutions or facilities, detention facilities for children established by law, health care institutions that are licensed by the department of health services pursuant to Title 36, Chapter 4 or private agencies that exclusively provide children with social enrichment or recreational opportunities and that do not use restrictive behavior management techniques. A.R.S. § 8-501(A)(1).

“Developmentally appropriate” means:

a. The activities or items that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity or that are determined to be developmentally appropriate for a child, based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group; and

b. In the case of a specific child, activities or items that are suitable for the child based on the developmental stages attained by the child with respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of the child

“Firearm” means any loaded or unloaded handgun, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, or other weapon that will expel, is deigned to expel, or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

“Foster home” means a residence where a foster parent lives and includes a detached home, all structures, and the entire premises belonging to the home, including apartments, guest homes, garages, sheds, and motorhomes. “Foster home” is further defined under A.R.S. § 8-501.

“Group foster home” means a class of foster home in which the licensed foster parent is certified to provide care to more than five but not more than 10 foster children at a time. “Group foster home” is further defined under A.R.S. § 8-501.

“Hazard” means a condition or situation that may cause or result in physical injury or illness to a child.

“Home” means the residence where a foster parent lives. “Home” may be used interchangeably with “foster home.”

“Life Safety Inspection” means an examination of a family foster home by OLR to verify compliance with standards intended to safeguard a foster child from fire and other hazardous conditions.

“Lock” means a device operated by a key, combination, magnet, keycard, or other tool to safeguard medications, swimming pools, weapons, and highly toxic substances.

“Medication” means both prescription and over-the-counter remedies.

“Office of Licensing and Regulation” or **“OLR”**, means the administration within DCS that is responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications for licensure; supervising and monitoring licensees; and completing all official licensing actions, including issuing, denying, amending, suspending, and revoking a license.

“Pool” means any natural or man-made body of water located at a foster home or on its premises that:

- a. Could be used for swimming, recreational, therapeutic, or decorative purposes;
- b. Is greater than 18 inches in depth; and
- c. Includes swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, fountains, and fishponds.

“Premises” means:

- a. The home; and
- b. The property surrounding the home that is owned, leased, or controlled by the applicant or licensee.

“Provider” means a licensed foster parent or Child Welfare Agency residential group care facility, and applicants for these licenses.

“Safeguard” means to take reasonable measures to eliminate the risk of harm to a foster child. Where a specific method is not otherwise prescribed in this Chapter, safeguarding may include:

- a. Locking up a particular substance or item;
- b. Putting a substance or item out of reach of a foster child;
- c. Erecting a barrier that prevents a foster child from reaching a particular place, item, or substance;
- d. Using protective safety devices; or
- e. Providing supervision.

“Skirting” means the barrier around the base of a mobile home that is intended to protect utility connections from damage or unauthorized contact.

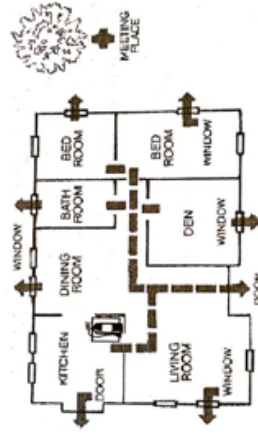
“Slip-resistant surface” means flooring that provides friction to help prevent falls when the surface is wet. A slip resistant surface may be achieved by rippling or corrugating the surface, applying textured strips, installing a secured carpet, using rubber mats, and other similar measures.

R21-8-112. Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan Requirements

A written emergency evacuation plan is developed and maintained in the home, to provide guidance on the safe and rapid evacuation of the home.

An emergency evacuation plan shall be posted in a prominent place and . . .

- Identify multiple exits from the home
- Identify two routes of evacuation from each bedroom on every floor. At least one of the exit routes for these bedrooms leads directly to the outside of the home
- Identify the location of fire extinguishers and fire evacuation equipment, including rope or chain ladders, and emergency lighting, as applicable
- Designate a safe central meeting place close to the home, known to the child, at a safe distance from potential Danger.
- Be maintained in the home to review with individuals residing in or receiving care in the home
- Include the placement of equipment, such as a ladder, that can be safely used by the individuals residing in each upstairs bedroom that have been identified with fire exits.



Arizona
Department of Child Safety

Emergency Evacuation Plan (Edit 06/01/2016)



Arizona
Department of Child Safety

Emergency Evacuation Drill Log

Date and Time of Drill	Total Evacuation Time	Exit Used	Problems Noted	Follow up Needed (Measures taken to ensure understanding of drills purpose and individual responsibilities during the drill)
06/01/2016 11:30 AM	5 Minutes	Back Door	Kids were not taking it serious	Spoke with the household after to discuss how critical it is to exit the home quickly and safely. The children are responsible for stopping what they are doing and head to the closest exit to meet at the designated meeting place.

* If licensed to provide care to five or more children an emergency drill must be conducted at least every three months

