
Foster Care – Provider Home Visit Preparation Checklist

Use this checklist to help you prepare your home for the safety inspection with your licensor.

- 1. Working smoke detector on each level (licensor will test)
- 2. Working carbon monoxide detector on each level
- 3. 1 fully charged fire extinguisher in home rated 2A:10BC or higher (licensor will check the charge)
- 4. Locking capability on bathrooms
- 5. Hazardous areas are mitigated through the use of fences, banisters, railings, grates, natural barriers, protective hardware or other licensor approved methods:
 - a. Fall hazards 3 feet or more (steep grades, cliffs, open pits, window wells, stairwells, elevated porches, retaining walls, etc) are mitigated
 - b. Drowning hazards (pools, hot tubs, water features, ponds, streams, canals, etc) are mitigated
 - c. Burn hazards (fireplaces, candles, radiators, etc) are mitigated
 - d. Unstable heavy items (televisions, bookshelves, etc) are mitigated
 - e. Dangerous traffic conditions are mitigated
 - f. Other hazards addressed/mitigated
- 6. Multi-level homes have: an automatic fire suppression system OR safety escape ladders OR stairway OR egress to ground level from all upper levels.
- 7. 9-1-1 recognizable phone on site with foster children at all times
- 8. Emergency contact numbers and address of the home are posted next to the phone or in a central location
- 9. Firearms stored with ammo ONLY in a gun safe or commercially manufactured container for firearm storage
- 10. Firearms and ammo are locked separately with separate key/combo/locking devices if not stored in commercially designed firearm storage container
- 11. Firearms in display cases are rendered inoperable and ammo locked elsewhere
- 12. Alcohol is inaccessible to foster children
- 13. Hazardous materials that are required to be locked are: pesticides, bleach, bleach-based cleaners, compressed air, ammonia and ammonia-based cleaners, chemical drain openers, hair relaxers/permanents, spray paint, paint thinner, automotive fluids, glues, oven cleaners, matches, lighters, lighter fluids, cleaning aerosols, over-the-counter medications, prescription medications, vitamins, supplements, concentrated detergent capsules.

- 14. Other common household items are stored responsibly in consideration of ages etc
 - 15. Flammable items such as: gasoline & kerosene are locked in ventilated storage containers
 - 16. Home is free from health/fire hazards
 - 17. 2 exits on each level of the home that are large enough for emergency personnel to enter from outside
 - 18. Safety devices as appropriate for ages (outlet covers, safety gates, window well covers)
 - 19. Adequate number of seatbelts in vehicles for family and foster children
 - 20. Fully supplied first aid kit in home (medications removed if it is not locked)
 - 21. First aid kit in vehicles that transport children
 - 22. Emergency contact information in vehicles that transport children (ensure that once placements are made, specific caseworker information be added for each child)
 - 23. Bedrooms measure 40 square feet per child with no more than 4 children in any room
 - 24. Beds are adequate to the size of the child(ren) you'll be taking
 - 25. Screens in foster bedroom windows
 - 26. Closet/Dresser for foster child's belongings
- Your licensor will be the one to inspect and approve all methods of meeting these requirements. If you have a situation that you are unsure of, please contact your licensor in advance to discuss it. Your licensor can offer you the technical assistance necessary to creatively problem-solve and assist you in coming into compliance with these requirements.
- If full compliance cannot be verified on the first visit, a follow-up visit may be necessary. Your license will be issued following licensor's ability to verify full compliance on all rules and checklist items. Be sure to familiarize yourself with R-501-12, as this is not a complete list of all requirements that you will be held to.