

Daniel A. Goonan
Chief of Department



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City of Manchester

Fire Department

Fire Prevention Bureau
Peter J. Lennon, Fire Marshal

LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION

General Instructions and Procedures for a Life Safety Inspection for a
Foster Care Family Home

Obtain from the State of New Hampshire a Foster Family Care Application:

State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services
Foster Care Services
129 Pleasant Streets
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
(603) 271-4711

New Hampshire Law RSA 170-E:34 requires that a family day care home be inspected by the local fire department and that the fire code for a single family residence shall be applied by local fire departments in their review of compliance with local ordinances for family homes.

Before calling the Manchester Fire Department for an inspection, please take a few minutes to do a self-evaluation of the home to become familiar with the types of things that the inspector will be looking for.

Once you are confident that you are ready for an inspection, call the Manchester Fire Prevention Bureau and ask to speak with an inspector. Please refer to the following checklist. This is a general checklist and is intended as a guide only.

A Manchester Marshal can be reached at (603) 669-2256.

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FIRE INSPECTION SELF-EVALUATION STUDY GUIDE **LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION FOR** **FOSTER HOMES**

This list is intended only as a guide. It may be helpful to review this list before calling your local Fire Marshal. A Manchester Fire Marshal can be reached at 669-2256.

- Does every room used for living, sleeping or dining purposes have at least two exits? One of these may be a window that is of sufficient size for the occupant to escape through.
- Is any space intended for living, sleeping or dining accessible only by ladder or folding stairs? If so, it will NOT be approved.
- If the basement is to be used, does it exit directly at ground level?
- In exiting homes, can the windows from the sleeping areas of the house be opened to a size that allows the occupant to easily escape through them?
- Are all doors in the travel path to an exit at least 28 inches wide?
- Can all doors be opened from the inside?
- Can all the closet doors be opened from the inside?
- Can every bathroom door be opened a minimum width of 24 inches from the outside in the event of an emergency?
- Is there non-rated wall paneling in the house? All wall paneling must have a minimum of Class "C" rating.
- Does the home have appropriate smoke detectors? In the City of Manchester, they must be hard wired and there must be one on every level of the home. State law requires that smoke detectors be installed in every sleeping room. (It is strongly suggested that smoke detection devices be interconnected).
- Is there at least a size 5BC fire extinguisher mounted in the kitchen near an exit? If you do not have an extinguisher, we recommend that you purchase a 3A-20BC, as this will extinguish any type of fire.
- Are the electrical circuits properly fused? Most homes have a 14-gauge electrical wire which calls for a 15 amp or smaller fuse or breaker.
- No more than two children under the age of two are to be cared for at any one time.

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SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST
LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION
FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS

DATE _____

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

1. Does the home have at least one working smoke detector on each floor?

YES ___ NO ___

In the City of Manchester, they must be hard wired and there must be one on every level of the home. State law requires that smoke detectors be installed in every sleeping room and smoke detection devices are interconnected.

2. Does the home have at least one working fire extinguisher?

YES ___ NO ___

If you do not have an extinguisher, we recommend that you purchase a 3A-20BC, as this will extinguish any type of fire.

3. Does home have at least two ways out from each floor level? (windows, staircases, etc?)

YES ___ NO ___

4. Are there living spaces accessible only by ladder or folding stairs?

YES ___ NO ___

If so, this space is unacceptable.

5. Does the basement exit directly to ground level?

YES ___ NO ___

Exiting through a bulkhead or stairs is unacceptable.

6. Can all the windows in the sleeping areas of the home be open to a size that allows an occupant to escape?

YES ___ NO ___

7. Are all the doors in the travel path to an exit a minimum of 28 inches in width?

YES ___ NO ___

8. Are all of the closet doors in the home operable from the inside?

YES ___ NO ___

9. Are all the bathroom doors a minimum of 24 inches in width?

YES ___ NO ___

10. Are all the electrical outlets properly fused?

YES ___ NO ___

Most homes are wired with 14 gauge wire which calls for a 15 amp or smaller fuse or breaker.

11. Are pellet/wood stoves install and maintained in a safe manner?

YES ___ NO ___

12. Does the home have a written evacuation plan?

YES ___ NO ___

13. Is the home free of obvious fire hazards?

YES ___ NO ___

(i.e., trash, discarded furniture, etc.)