

**CLINTON COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES  
FOSTER CARE PROGRAM  
SITE AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR A FOSTER HOME**

- A. A foster home and all structures associated with the home shall be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition and in a reasonable state of repair.
- B. Outdoor recreation equipment on the grounds of a foster home shall be maintained in a safe state of repair.
- C. Outdoor areas on the grounds of or immediately adjacent to a foster home which are potentially hazardous to a foster child placed in the home shall be reasonably safeguarded, considering the age and functioning level of the foster child. Such areas include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Water areas, including lakes, ponds, rivers, quarries and swimming pools;
  - 2. Open pits and wells;
  - 3. Cliffs and caves;
  - 4. High-speed or heavily traveled roads.
- D. A foster home shall be adequately heated, lighted and ventilated.
- E. Bleach, cleaning materials, other poisonous or corrosive household chemicals, flammable and combustible materials, potentially dangerous tools or utensils, and electrical equipment or machinery in or on the grounds of a foster home shall be stored in a safe manner.
- F. Any firearm, air rifle, hunting slingshot or other projectile weapon kept on the grounds of or in a foster home shall be stored in an inoperative condition in a locked area inaccessible to children. All ammunition, arrows or projectiles for such weapons shall be stored in a separate locked space. Any foster caregiver who is also a law enforcement official and can document that their jurisdiction requires them to have ready and immediate access to their weapon shall be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.
- G. A foster home shall have a working telephone or be able to demonstrate to the recommending agency reasonable access to a working telephone for emergency situations.
- H. Appropriate emergency telephone numbers including fire, police, ambulance, poison control, the recommending agency, and each agency with a foster child placed in the home shall be posted in a prominent place in a foster home.

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- I. All locking doors to any room or storage area inside a foster home in which a person could become confined, and from which the only other means of exit requires the use of a key, shall be able to be unlocked from either side. Locking of the children's bedroom doors while children are sleeping is prohibited. Locking of outside doors is permitted. Fencing around a yard or outside play area is permitted.
- J. A foster home shall have a continuous supply of safe drinking water. Well water used for drinking and cooking shall be tested and approved by the Health Department prior to initial certification and annually.
- K. A foster home shall have working bathroom and toilet facilities located within the home and connected to an indoor plumbing system.
- L. Garbage shall be disposed of on a regular basis. Garbage stored outside shall be in covered containers or closed bags.
- M. A foster home shall have a working smoke alarm approved by "Underwriter's Laboratory" on each level of occupancy of the home.
- N. A foster caregiver shall have a written evacuation plan for evacuating the home or seeking shelter in the event of fire, tornado, or other disaster. This evacuation plan shall contain a primary and alternate escape route for each floor. A foster caregiver shall provide initial orientation and on-going instruction on the contents of this plan to each foster child in accordance with the foster child's age and functioning level.
- O. All escape routes shall be kept free of clutter and other obstructions.
- P. Household heating equipment used in a foster home shall be equipped with appropriate safeguards in accordance with the age and functioning level of any foster child in the home.
- Q. Un-vented kerosene heaters may be used, if the heater has been approved by "Underwriter's Laboratory," and they are not prohibited by any local zoning ordinances.
- R. A foster home shall have an "Underwriter's Laboratory" approved portable fire extinguisher in working order in or near the cooking area of the home.
- S. Pets or domestic animals in or on the premises of a foster home shall be kept in a safe and a sanitary manner in accordance with state and local laws.

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- T. A foster child shall be protected from animals potentially dangerous to the child's health and safety in or on the premises of a foster home.
- U. Interior and exterior stairways accessible to children shall be protected by child safety gates or doors according to the child's age and functioning level.

Submitted by:

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Approved by:

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