

 VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		225
Chapter:	Residential Licensing	
Subject:	Fire Safety in Foster Homes	Page 1 of 2
Approved:	Cynthia K. Walcott, Deputy Commissioner	Effective: 10/29/09
Supersedes:	Second Exits from Family Foster Homes	Dated: 8/1/02

Purpose

To assist family services staff in the application of fire safety Licensing Regulations for Family Foster Care to new and existing licensed family foster homes.

Policy

The Residential Care Licensing Unit will interpret the "second exit" and "smoke detector" fire safety Licensing Regulations for Family Foster Care with guidance from the requirements of Chapter 21 of the Life Safety Code for One and Two Family Dwellings.

Smoke Detectors

Approved, functioning, smoke detectors shall be installed outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. Smoke detectors shall be on each story of the dwelling, including the basement. Approved smoke alarms powered by batteries shall be permitted.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Foster homes shall have carbon monoxide detectors properly installed according to the manufacture's directions. There shall be at least one on each floor that is used as living space, including basements and detectors must be located in close proximity to bedrooms. Separate smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are acceptable or if the homeowner prefers to combine the two, combination photoelectric/carbon monoxide detectors will meet the requirements of this policy.

Second Exit for Sleeping Rooms

Every bedroom used by a foster child shall have at least one primary and one secondary exit. The primary exit shall be the door to the defined evacuation route leading outside at ground level. The secondary exit shall be one of the following:

- a second door from the bedroom leading to the outside at ground level that is remote from the primary evacuation route, or

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- a second door from the bedroom leading to an exterior balcony, or
- an outside window large enough to be used as a means of rescue or escape. Such means of escape shall be acceptable if:
 - a) The bottom of the opening shall be not more than 44 in. above the floor, AND
 - b) the window is within 20 ft. of grade, or
 - c) the window opens onto an exterior landing, roof, balcony, or deck.