

TRUMBULL COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES' SITE AND SAFETY POLICY

All structures, grounds, furnishings and/or equipment used or located on the grounds of the foster home shall be continually maintained in good repair and in a clean and safe condition. A home is to be free of peeling or chipped paint. If a potential lead hazard is identified, the Agency will make a referral to the appropriate agency, following ODJFS guidance.

Swimming pools are to have a barrier on all sides. The method of access through the barrier is to be equipped with a safety device, such as a bolt lock. They are to be equipped with a life saving device, such as a buoy. If the swimming pool cannot be emptied after each use, the pool is to have a working pump and filtering system.

Hot tubs and spas are to have safety covers that are locked when not in use.

Foster children are not permitted in pools or swimming areas unless the foster caregiver has current First Aid and CPR certification or there is a lifeguard present. All foster children must be visually supervised by the foster caregiver when they are in a pool or swimming area.

All outdoor recreation equipment must be maintained in a safe state of repair. Trumbull County Children Services strongly discourages our foster families from purchasing trampolines. There is even the possibility that certain insurance companies may not provide homeowners protection for dwellings where a trampoline is on the property. Nevertheless, if a foster family insists, all trampolines utilized by foster children must have a safety net and be utilized in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All foster children must be visually supervised by the foster caregiver when using trampolines.

A foster caregiver must visually supervise any foster child using any outdoor play equipment. All outdoor play equipment must be utilized in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements. All play equipment or toys must be maintained in a safe and sanitary manner and utilized in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.

All porches and patios more than thirty-six inches above ground level, elevated walkways and elevated play areas within or on the grounds of the foster home shall be enclosed with barriers to prevent falls. 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.

All stairways having more than four steps and are not enclosed by walls, must have a railing. It is recommended that *all* stairways with more than four steps have a railing. Foster children should be supervised in accordance with their age and functioning level on any stairway, with or without a railing. All stairways outside of the foster home, having more than four steps, must have a railing.

All workshop or outdoor power-driven equipment/machinery shall be maintained and operated in a safe manner, and only be utilized by children if permitted by law, permitted in writing by the custodial agency, and under the direct supervision of the foster parent. If permitted, all required safety equipment must be worn. If the area where the equipment is stored is not locked, foster children must be visually supervised by the foster parent when in or near that area. If possible, the equipment should be made inoperable.

All outside buildings or structures, such as garages, barns, sheds, etc. should be maintained in a safe manner. If buildings are not locked, not safe, contain workshop or power-driven equipment or poisonous, toxic or flammable materials and substances or dangerous animals, then foster children must be visually supervised by a foster parent when in or near these areas.

Outdoor areas on the grounds or immediately adjacent to the foster home which may be potentially hazardous, such as ponds, lakes, streams, cliffs, high traffic areas, etc. must be safeguarded or foster children must be visually supervised by the foster parent when outside. Garbage shall be disposed of on a regular basis and if stored outside, shall be in covered containers or closed bags.

All grills and propane tanks should be appropriately safeguarded. Foster children, according to their age and functioning level, should be visually supervised when grills are in use.

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. Unvented heaters that burn kerosene or oil shall not be used. All heaters must be approved by "Underwriters Laboratory" or a certified fire inspector and not prohibited by any local zoning ordinances.

All bleach, cleaning materials, poisonous or corrosive chemicals, toxic, flammable, combustible materials or substances, and potentially dangerous tools, utensils, electrical equipment or machinery within the foster home should be maintained in a locked area in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Foster children must be visually supervised by the foster parent when in these areas or when using any of these materials or substances. Additionally, alcoholic beverages are to be stored in a safe manner that prevents the child's access, as appropriate for his/her age.

A foster home shall comply with the following requirements regarding weapons per ORC 5101:2-7-12:

1. The following weapons kept on the grounds of or in a foster home shall be stored in an inoperative condition in a locked area inaccessible to children:
 - a. Fire
 - b. Air rifles.
 - c. Hunting slingshots
 - d. Any other projectile weapon.
2. All ammunition, arrows or projectiles for such weapons shall be stored in a separate locked space.
3. 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.

A foster caregiver shall administer or supervise the administration of prescription drugs to a foster child only for whom the medication was prescribed and according to the prescribing physician's instruction. Prescription drugs shall be kept in a container, labeled with the foster child's name, the correct dosage and relevant instructions.

All prescription drugs in a foster home shall be stored in a locked cabinet or storage area except that an inhaler or medication may be available to a person with a special health condition, who may need these for an emergency. Prescribed drugs shall be disposed of in a safe manner when the prescription is no longer current. Any side effects of prescription drugs shall be reported immediately to the prescribing physician and the recommending agency.

A foster home is to maintain first aid supplies.

In accordance with 5101:2-7-12(BB) of the Ohio Administrative Code, a foster home shall provide a smoke free environment for foster children:

1. If a foster home has a current placement or respite, smoking on the grounds of a foster home shall be permitted only if all of the following requirements are met:

- a. Smoking shall not occur in the home or attached building areas or vehicle.
- b. All smoking shall be conducted out of the sight of foster children.
- c. The area where smoking is occurring is so far removed from the foster children that the children cannot inhale any smoke.

2. Smoking may be permitted in the home or vehicles only when the foster home has no current placements or respites.

All lighters should be kept on the foster parent or safeguarded. In accordance with 5101:2-7-12 (P), the home must have working smoke alarms, approved by "Underwriter's Laboratory" or a certified fire inspector, on each level of occupancy and at least one near all sleeping areas of the home.). Batteries must be replaced in the smoke alarms at least annually. Additionally, the foster home is to have at least one carbon monoxide detector on each level of occupancy of the home and at least one near all sleeping areas.

All foster parents must have an appropriate child restraint seat or booster seat for each foster child placed in the foster home. All child restraint seats/booster seats must be utilized in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements and in accordance with 5101: 2-7-15 of the Ohio Administrative Code, which requires that:

(A) Any vehicle owned or leased by a foster caregiver and used to transport a foster child shall be maintained in a safe condition and in compliance with all motor vehicle laws. Such vehicles shall be covered by liability insurance in accordance with current state laws.

(B) A foster caregiver shall ensure that any person transporting a foster child in a motor vehicle shall be licensed to drive that class of vehicle and that such vehicle is maintained in a safe condition according to state laws.

(C) A foster caregiver shall ensure that a foster child transported in an automobile a motor vehicle shall be restrained by a seat belt both a lap belt and a shoulder belt in vehicles that are so equipped when the foster child is more than four years old and forty pounds in weight. When the foster child is less than four years old or forty pounds in weight, a child restraint seat shall be used.

(D) When the foster child is less than four years old or forty pounds in weight, a child restraint seat secured by a seat belt shall be used. The child restraint seat shall be placed in the back seat of any motor vehicle that has a back seat. (The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that toddlers be restrained in a rear facing car safety seat until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer.)

(1) An infant less than one year of age or twenty pounds in weight shall be restrained only in a rear-facing position and whenever possible shall not be placed in the front seat of a motor vehicle equipped with passenger air bags.

(2) Toddlers between twenty pounds and forty pounds in weight shall be restrained in a forward-facing position.

(E) When the foster child is more than four years old and forty pounds in weight and less than eighty pounds or shorter than four feet, nine inches in height (57 inches), the child shall be restrained in a belt positioning booster seat in a forward-facing position. The booster seat shall be placed in the back seat of any motor vehicle that has a back seat.

(F) All children age twelve and under shall be restrained by a seat belt at all times and if riding in a motor vehicle that has a back seat, whenever possible, shall not ride in the front seat of the vehicle.

(G) When any child who is at least eight years of age but not older than fifteen years of age, and who is not otherwise required to be secured in a child restraint system or booster seat, is being transported in a motor vehicle, shall have the child properly restrained either in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards or in an occupant restraining device as defined in section 4513.263 of the Revised Code.

(H) Paragraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this rule do not apply to the foster caregiver who has a signed affidavit by a licensed physician in Ohio or a licensed chiropractor in Ohio. The affidavit shall state that the child who otherwise would be required to be restrained, has a physical impairment that makes use of a child restraint system, booster seat, or an occupant restraining device impossible or impractical, provided the person operating the vehicle has safely and appropriately restrained the child in accordance with any recommendation of the physician or chiropractor as noted on the affidavit.

(I) Each foster caregiver shall ensure the recall and safety information issued by the consumer product safety commission (CPSC) related to child safety seats or booster seats are reviewed. Any safety recommendations made by the CPSC in regard to child safety seats or booster seats shall be implemented by the caregiver.

A foster home that is licensed for children under the age of two (2) must be able to readily and easily access and assemble a crib which meets the standards as set forth in 5101:2-7-10 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Cribs used for children under two years of age or under 35 inches in height are full-sized, with slats no more than two and three-eighths ($2 \frac{3}{8}$) inches apart, no decorative cutout areas on crib end panels which could entrap a child's head are permitted, mattresses will be firm and at least 1 and one-half ($1 \frac{1}{2}$) inches

think and covered with waterproof material not dangerous to a child, the mattress must fit close enough to the frame so that there is no more than one (1) inch between the mattress and the sides of the crib. Only cribs that are compliant with the U.S. consumer product safety commission shall be used. A bassinet or cradle may be used only for infants less than fifteen (15) pounds in weight.

If a fully assembled crib was not observed prior to the placement of a child under the age of two into the foster home, then a site and safety by the foster caregiver's Resource Caseworker must be conducted prior to any placement being able to occur in order for the worker to observe a fully assembled crib in the home.

All toddler beds must be used for foster children must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements for height, weight and age. ORC 5101:2-7-10 (A). No foster parent may change a foster child's bed or bedroom without prior approval of the agency.

Locks to at least one door to any room or walk- in 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 and be unlocked from inside of the room or storage area without a key. Locking of the children's bedroom doors while children are sleeping is prohibited. Locking of outside doors and fencing around a yard or outside play area is permitted.

A foster home shall be adequately heated, lighted and ventilated. A bedroom for a foster child shall have at least one outside wall window. The window shall be screened and capable of opening and closing. A working telephone or reasonable access to a working telephone is required for emergency situations. Appropriate emergency telephone numbers, including fire, police, ambulance, poison control, Trumbull County Children Services, and any other agency with a foster child placed in the home shall be posted in a prominent place in the home.

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 ongoing instruction on the contents of this plan to each foster child in accordance with the foster child's age and functioning level. All escape routes shall be kept free of clutter and other obstructions.

A foster home shall have a portable fire extinguisher in working order in or near the cooking area of the home. The fire extinguisher shall be "Underwriters Laboratory" approved or approved by a certified fire inspector.

Pets or domestic animals in or on the premises of a foster home shall be kept in a safe and sanitary manner in accordance with state and local laws. 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.

A foster home is to be free from rodents and insect infestation.

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 thereafter.

A foster home shall have working bathroom and toilet facilities located within the home and connected to an indoor plumbing system.

A foster home is to ensure proper water heater temperature not to exceed one hundred-twenty (120) degrees Fahrenheit.

I understand and agree to abide by the standards set forth in the site and safety policy.

Foster Parent Signature

Date

Foster Parent Signature

Date

Revised March 8, 2007 CLM/cm
Revised December 1, 2008 CLM/cm
Revised August 1, 2009 CLM
Revised May 1, 2011 RM
Revised July 1, 2014 RM
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