



Corpus Christi Fire Department Foster Care Requirements Fire Marshal's Office

2406 Leopard Street, Suite 200, Corpus Christi TX 78408 361-826-3930

These guidelines are not all inclusive of the requirements, it is intended to be a guideline for some basic Home Foster inspection requirements.

Address

Clearly posted on the front of the residence/building in minimum 4" contrasting letters visible from the street.

Exits

At least two exits located in distant parts of the home. An escape window can be used as an exit if children and caregivers can safely exit through to the ground. Doors that are blocked may not be used as an exit. No exit through the kitchen, storage, or hazardous areas will be permitted.

Emergency Lighting

A battery powered source of emergency lighting must be readily accessible in case of electrical failure.

Windows

No burglar bars allowed (exception – Approved Systems).

Note: The following Rescue Window requirements apply to Residential Homes located in group "R" occupancies (Residential Homes).

All windows must 44 inches or lower, measured from the floor where children occupy a room.

Must have a Rescue Window at least 20 inches in width and at least 24 inches in height and 5.7 sq. ft. (exception: rooms with a door directly leading to exterior).

Evacuation and Safety Plans

Required to be on file and maintained.

Complete safety and evacuation plan reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Complete plan available for review by the AHJ upon request.

Evacuation diagram must be available.

Smoke/Heat Detectors

Working smoke detection system is required. Individual electric hard-wired or battery-operated smoke detectors located in each room used by children.

Hard-wired or battery-operated heat detector in kitchen.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

At least one Carbon Monoxide Detector located on every level of the home (may be battery operated).

Fire Extinguishers

One 2A 10BC Fire Extinguisher for each 3,000 sq. ft., or one 3A 40BC.

One Fire Extinguisher is required for each floor.

Electrical Outlets

Covers for electrical outlets that are accessible to children under 5 years old.

Extension cords shall not be substituted for permanent wiring and must not be affixed to structures. They can be used for portable items. Extension cords must not extend through ceilings, floors or under doors or floor coverings.

Water Heater

Vented to the exterior.

In an approved enclosed – has adequate combustion air intake; Is protected from rodent entry/nesting; Pressure relief valve directed properly.

Fireplace

Requires a carbon monoxide detector also.

