

ALABAMA

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS FOR APPROVED FOSTER HOMES:

** This is not an exhaustive list of all standards, just a summary

- Home is in clean condition
- Home is located in a neighborhood that is suitable for the general welfare of children. It is safe and suitable for indoor and outdoor activities.
- Family has a working telephone
- Home has electric service, water and gas if used for heating and cooking
- Home has a waste disposal system (city sewage or septic tank)
- There is adequate lighting in all rooms
- Beds and mattresses are of the size and quality to allow for good sleeping posture
- Slats on babies cribs are no more than 2 ^{3/8} inches apart
- Mattress on baby's crib is waterproof and fits tightly inside of crib; no more than a two-finger width between the mattress and each end of the bed
- Cribs and mattresses are clean and disinfected
- There is a distance of three (3) feet between babies' cribs
- There is an adequate number of bedrooms and beds, and a separate bed for each foster child
- There are private, sanitary bathroom facilities for family members and foster children
- There is a fenced play area when hazards are in the neighborhood that would place a child's health and safety at risk (i.e. dangerous highways, bodies of water, etc.)
- There is a locked storage area for chemicals and poisons (i.e. pesticides, insecticides, varnish, paint, kerosene, etc.)
- Home has suitable facilities for the preparation, serving, and protection/storage of food
- Water temperature does not exceed 120° Fahrenheit
- Decals are placed at child's eye level on all sliding glass or unpaned doors
- There are handrails on all stairs used by children
- Firearms are unloaded and locked in a storage area inaccessible to children; ammunition stored and locked separately
- Medication is stored in a locked area
- Grounds are free from anything that constitutes a hazard
- There are appropriate safeguards against potential hazards such as open fires, heaters, cooking range, machinery, etc.
- There are no more than two (2) electrical plugs in an outlet. If children are under the age four (4), protective covers over the outlets should be in place.
- If children are under age of four (4), safety gates should be placed at the tops and bottoms of stairs.
- Working smoke alarms should be within ten (10) feet of bedrooms and no more than thirty (30) feet apart in hallways. They should also be placed at the head of stairways for each additional floor in the home, including basements.
- A five (5) pound dry chemical fire extinguisher that can be used on any type of fire is installed in plain view near a room that has an escape route.
- Each bedroom has a window through which an exit can be made in case of fire, and upstairs bedrooms have ladders that can be used for exit through windows in case of fire.
- Fireplaces have proper screen doors
- Home has fire evacuation and threat of natural disaster (hurricane, tornado) plans posted. ***Directions for these plans will be provided in GPS Profile handouts and in the Emergency Plan Policy.***
- Outside garbage/trash is stored in fly-proof, watertight containers with lids
- Pets are kept clean and brushed and rabies vaccinations are up-to-date
- Automobiles used to transport children have seat belts, locked doors, and a passenger restraint system
- Clothes dryer is properly vented and lint-free
- Potentially dangerous items (matches, cleaning fluids, soaps, detergents, shampoos, bleach, nail products, vitamins, cosmetics, perfumes, etc.) are stored and inaccessible to children.