



## Home Study Physical Requirements of Home (Massachusetts)

Homes must meet the following safety requirements as part of the home study process. Indicate compliance status by checking the appropriate box. If out of compliance, please state the plan and time frame for correction, prior to placement of the child with the family.

Prospective Adoptive Parents(s): \_\_\_\_\_

PAP #: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Doing Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

#	SAFETY REQUIREMENTS	N/A	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Plan of Correction
1	<b>General</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home must be clean, safe, and free of obvious fire and other hazards including, but not limited to, chipping, flaking or peeling paint or broken plaster.</li> <li>Home must be of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably and appropriately all members of the household and the approved number of adopted children to be placed.</li> <li>Please share the attached childproofing information with the prospective adoptive family. These safety modifications should be completed before the child is mobile.</li> </ul>				
2	<b>Smoke &amp; CO2 detectors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The home shall be equipped with smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in working order consistent with local regulations and state law.</li> </ul> <p>(i.e. working detectors on each floor and outside each bedroom. They may be inside each bedroom, if it's newer construction).</p>				

#	SAFETY REQUIREMENTS	N/A	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Plan of Correction
3	<b>Lighting, Ventilation, &amp; Electricity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The home shall have adequate lighting and ventilation for safe and comfortable occupancy.</li> <li>The home must have electricity and must be free of obvious fire hazards, including electrical wires and extension cords. There shall be no frayed, live electrical wires.</li> </ul>				
4	<b>Animals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No animal that poses a safety or health risk to children may be kept on the premises.</li> </ul>				
5	<b>Heating</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The home must have an operable heating source (please specify what type of heating furnace/wood stove the home has). Oil, forced hot air, radiators, etc.</li> </ul>				
6	<b>Fireplaces, Stoves, &amp; Space Heaters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The home shall have a working stove for cooking.</li> <li>Fireplaces, stoves, fireplace inserts, wood and coal burning stoves, and free-standing space heaters shall have sufficient shielding so as to prevent access to or heat/burning of children.</li> </ul>				
7	<b>Water Supply</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The home shall have hot and cold indoor plumbing appropriate and adaptable to the needs of children.</li> </ul>				
8	<b>Furnishings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The home shall have sufficient furniture that allows each child to sleep in a separate bed and to have adequate storage space for their personal belongings.</li> </ul>				

#	SAFETY REQUIREMENTS	N/A	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Plan of Correction
9	<b>Swimming Pool</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If there is a swimming pool, it must be <b>fenced and locked</b> to be inaccessible to children.</li> </ul>				
10	<b>Telephone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A working telephone for both incoming and out-going calls shall be available in the home at all times.</li> </ul>				
11	<b>Firearms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any firearms located in the home shall be registered and a person must have a license to own and operate a firearm.</li> <li>They must be trigger-locked or fully inoperable and stored without ammunition in a locked area.</li> <li>Ammunition shall be stored in a separate locked location.</li> </ul>				

**Dates and results of safety checks (list date, circle one, and initial):**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ In Compliance Out of Compliance Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ In Compliance Out of Compliance Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Worker's Signature (and credentials)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Childproofing

Children are curious about everything in their world. It won't be long before they're crawling, walking, and moving fast! We offer this list of helpful things you can do now - before a child is mobile - to prepare your home for their safe exploration.

- Medications and containers of poisonous, caustic, toxic, flammable or other dangerous materials, including batteries, should be distinctly marked and stored in areas inaccessible to children.
- Kitchen and bathroom cabinets should either only have items safe for children or be locked with child safety guards.
- Bookcases secured to the wall.
- Windows accessible to children should be able to be locked.
- Keep cords out of reach including electrical cords (a baby may try to chew on the wire) as well as cords for blinds (which can be a strangling risk).
- Safety covers placed on all electrical outlets.
- Keep houseplants out of reach.
- Child protective closures, shields, covers and latches for protection against areas which could harm a child.
- Stairs and decks must have gates to prevent access to young children.
- Sufficient locks to keep children out of the garage and move any dangerous items in the garage above child level.

*A good rule of thumb: If you're able to crawl around your home and reach anything you don't want your child to reach, it's time now to find a new location for that item.*