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Home Study Physical Requirements of Home (Maine)

All Maine homes must meet the following safety requirements as part of the home study process. Please indicate compliance status by checking the appropriate boxes in the grid below. If something in the home is out of compliance, please state the plan and time frame for correction of the matter, prior to placement of the child with the family, in order to make it in compliance.

This certificate is valid for one year and must be renewed each year if a child has not been placed in the home and freed for adoption.

Prospective Adoptive Parent(s): _____ **PAP #:** _____

#	SAFETY REQUIREMENTS	N/A	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Plan of Correction
1	General <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home must be clean, safe, and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably and appropriately all members of the household and the approved number of adopted children to be placed.• All corridors, exits, passageways, stairways, and fire escapes must be kept clear for safe egress.• There shall be no clutter or debris in the yard or in other play areas.• At least one window and all doors in each room shall be free of any plastic coverings, obstruction or barriers.• Please share the attached childproofing information with the prospective adoptive family. These safety modifications should be completed before the child is mobile.				

#	SAFETY REQUIREMENTS	N/A	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Plan of Correction
2	Smoke & CO2 Detectors, and Fire Extinguishers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operable smoke detectors and CO2 detectors on each floor (or more if required by Fire Marshall's Office code.) There must be a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen area. 				
3	Animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No animal that poses a safety or health risk to children may be kept on the premise. 				
4	Medications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medications must be placed in a secure location out of reach of children. 				
5	Lighting, Ventilation, & Electricity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home shall have adequate lighting and ventilation for safe and comfortable occupancy. 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. All outlets should be covered with child safety plugs. 				
6	Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There cannot be any obstructed exits from the home. One window must be operable for exit in each room. All internal doors and/or closet locks must be operable from both sides, in case of emergency. 				
7	Food & Dining Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is adequate space for dining/eating as well as food storage areas, which are maintained in a sanitary condition. 				
8	Telephone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There must be a working telephone in the home. 				
9	Heating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home must have an operable heating source (please specify what type of heating furnace/stove the home has). 				

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10	Fireplaces, Stoves, Radiators, Hot Water Pipes & Space Heaters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fireplaces, stoves, fireplace inserts, wood and coal burning stoves, and free-standing space heaters shall have sufficient shielding so as to prevent access to children. Fireplaces, even if not currently in use, shall have secure bolted protection. No combustible materials shall be located near any fire source. No oil leaks (tanks, pipes, etc.) shall be inside or outside 				
11	Water Supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home shall have hot and cold indoor plumbing appropriate and adaptable to the needs of children. If the home uses well water, it shall be tested and determined safe, and a report of the test shall be furnished to the adoption agency. 				
12	Bedrooms Bedrooms must meet the following guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If one child per bedroom, the room shall be at least 60 sq. feet If more than one child per bedroom, the room shall be at least 40 sq. feet per child All bedrooms must have an average ceiling height of at least 7 feet At least one window operable for ventilation and emergency evacuation Must have a door and provide for reasonable privacy No adult residing in the household shall share a bedroom with a child over one year of age (exceptions will be allowed when deemed to be in the best interest of a child in collaboration with the agency). No child over 5 years of age may sleep in the same room with a child of the opposite sex. Separate beds with clean bedding for each child must be present Must have furniture that is comfortable and suited to the needs of the child Alcoves, closets, or corridors, etc. cannot be used as a bedroom 				

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	#12 Continued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An adult must be in hearing distance in order to respond to child's needs Provide accommodations for child's disabilities 				
13	Toilet/bathroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilet and bathroom facilities must be provided that is sanitary, appropriate, and in good repair. The bathroom must be accessible without having to pass through other sleeping areas. 				
14	Furnishings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 				
15	Harmful Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All potentially harmful materials such as poisonous, toxic or flammable materials must be stored in locked storage areas or kept in a place inaccessible to children. Household materials, tools, and equipment which may be dangerous to children shall be stored out of reach of the children. 				
16	Stairways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stairways shall be equipped with a railing. There shall be ongoing maintenance to prevent broken stairs, railings, splintering, etc. 				
17	Health Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-adoptive children must have preventative, ongoing, and emergency care (Medical, Dental, and Psychological) – as per Guardian, Agency, and/or (emergency) circumstance requirements There must be means to transport a child to places for treatment/care. Written consents for Treatment and Medical records of all treatment received subsequent to placement (including prescribed medications, physician's orders, and immunization records) must be on file at the home. All medications must be kept in their original containers and note the child's name, date prescribed, instructions for administration, and the prescribing physician's name. 				

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18	Swimming Pool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a swimming pool, it must be fenced and locked to be inaccessible to children. 				
19	Recreational Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe outdoor and indoor recreational materials shall be provided in sufficient variety and quantity to provide a choice of opportunities. All recreational materials shall be maintained in good repair. 				
20	Firearms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firearms including BB guns and air guns must be stored unloaded and locked in firearm-industry-specific locked storage cabinets. Ammunition and projectiles such as arrows, or other items which can be used to make a weapon operable, shall be locked separately. 				

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.