

Home Environment Assessment Standards

SECTION 11-01: Home and Grounds

(a) The home and grounds of a Resource Family shall meet the requirements specified in this section and the following requirements:

(1) The home shall be clean, safe, sanitary, and in good repair.

(2) Except for a home with a sprinkler system, a home shall have an approved, commercially manufactured, and functioning carbon monoxide detector and smoke alarm or smoke detector installed in the hallway of each sleeping area in the home. A detector and alarm shall be audible in each bedroom.

(A) A carbon monoxide detector shall meet the standards set forth in Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 13260) of Part 2 of Division 12 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) A smoke alarm or smoke detector shall meet the standards set forth in Section 13113.7 of the Health and Safety Code.

(3) All outdoor and indoor passageways, stairways, inclines, ramps, and open porches in and on the grounds of the home shall be free of obstruction.

(4) At least one toilet, sink, and tub or shower shall be maintained in a safe, clean, and operating condition.

(A) Faucets to be used by a child or nonminor dependent for personal care and grooming shall deliver water that is safe and sanitary and hot water at a safe temperature.

(B) If age or developmentally appropriate, individual privacy shall be provided to a child or nonminor dependent in all toilet, bath, and shower areas.

(5) Fireplaces, freestanding stoves, and space heaters shall be maintained and used in a manner that ensures safe operation.

(6) A safe and comfortable temperature shall be maintained in the home.

(7) There shall be lighting as necessary in all rooms and other areas of the home and grounds to ensure comfort and safety.

(8) All water used in the home shall be safe and sanitary.

(b) A bedroom for a child or nonminor dependent shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Each bedroom used by a child or nonminor dependent shall have at least one operable window or door that ensures a safe, direct, emergency exit to the outside.

(A) A window with security bars shall have a safety release device that meets all state and local requirements.

(B) If the home of a Resource Family is in a high-rise building, the Resource Family is subject to the rules and regulations set forth by the State Fire Marshal.

(2) A room that is commonly used for other purposes may not be used as a bedroom. Such rooms shall include, but not be limited to, halls, stairways, public passageways, unfinished attics or basements, garages, storage areas, sheds, or similar detached buildings.

(A) A room commonly used for other purposes that is converted to a bedroom may be used as a bedroom for a child or nonminor dependent if it does not pose a violation of personal rights or a hazard to health and safety. If a County suspects that there is a hazard to health and safety, a Resource Family may be required to have the converted bedroom inspected by a local building inspector.

(3) A child or nonminor dependent shall be provided with an individual bed, which is equipped with a clean and comfortable mattress, and clean linens, blankets, and pillows, as needed, all in good repair.

(A) Linens shall be changed at least once per week or more often when necessary to ensure that clean linen is in use at all times.

(4) Beds shall be arranged to allow easy passage between beds and easy entrance into the room.

(5) The following shall apply to a bunk bed for a child:

(A) Bunk beds shall have railings on both sides of the upper tier to prevent falling.

(B) A child under six years of age or who is unable to climb into or out of the upper tier unassisted may not be permitted to use the upper tier.

(C) Bunk beds of more than two tiers may not be used.

(6) Each infant, or child requiring a crib, shall be provided with an individual, safe, and sturdy bassinet or crib as appropriate to the age and size of the infant or child. The following shall apply to cribs:

(A) Tiered or stacked cribs, or cribs with drop sides, may not be used.

(B) Crib slats may not pose the danger of an infant or child being trapped.

(C) A crib mattress shall be clean, comfortable, and fit properly in the crib.

(D) Linens shall include a fitted sheet that fits tightly on a crib mattress and overlaps the underside of the mattress so it cannot be dislodged.

(E) Linens shall be changed at least once per week or more often when necessary to ensure that clean linen is in use at all times.

(F) A bassinet or crib shall be free from all loose articles and objects.

(G) Objects may not hang above or be attached to any side of a bassinet or crib.

(H) An infant or child who can climb out of a crib shall be provided with an age-appropriate bed.

(7) Each bedroom shall have portable or permanent storage space to accommodate a child's or nonminor dependent's clothing and personal belongings.

(c) A bedroom sharing arrangement involving a child or nonminor dependent shall meet the following requirements:

(1) No more than four children or nonminor dependents, or one child and one nonminor dependent, may share a bedroom.

(A) A child or nonminor dependent may share a bedroom with an adopted, biological, or guardianship child of a Resource Family provided that the total number of individuals in the bedroom does not exceed four.

(2) A child or nonminor dependent may not share a bedroom with a Resource Parent except as specified in Section 10-03(a)(3).

(3) Children of different genders may share a bedroom under any of the following circumstances:

(A) Each child is under eight years of age.

(B) The children are siblings.

(C) A minor parent may share a bedroom with his or her child.

(D) A Resource Family may permit a child to share a bedroom

consistent with the child's gender identity regardless of the gender or sex listed on his or her court or child welfare documents.

(4) A child and nonminor dependent may share a bedroom under any of the following circumstances:

(A) The child and nonminor dependent are siblings.

(B) The child and nonminor dependent have been sharing a bedroom prior to the nonminor dependent turning 18.

(C) A nonminor dependent parent may share a bedroom with his or her child.

(D) The child is 16 years of age or older.

(E) A Resource Family may permit a child and nonminor dependent to share a bedroom consistent with the child's or nonminor dependent's gender identity regardless of the gender or sex listed on his or her court or child welfare documents.

(5) For purposes of this paragraph, a "child" shall include an adopted, biological, or guardianship child of a Resource Family. A Resource Family shall consider the following factors to determine whether a bedroom sharing arrangement ensures compatibility with a child or nonminor dependent:

(A) The age of the children and/or nonminor dependent, including the degree of age difference between them.

(B) The sleeping patterns of the children and/or nonminor dependents and if they may be disruptive to one another.

(C) The developmental levels and needs of the children and/or nonminor dependents.

(D) The privacy needs of the children and/or nonminor dependents and the plans to meet those needs.

(E) The history of the children and/or nonminor dependents, including previous sleeping arrangements and any information that may contraindicate sharing a room, if known.

(F) Any history or suspicion of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

(G) The supervision plan within the home.

(H) The needs of a minor or nonminor dependent parent and his or her child.

(6) When permitting any bedroom sharing arrangement involving a child or nonminor dependent, a Resource Family shall:

(A) Consult with the child or nonminor dependent about sharing a bedroom if it is age or developmentally appropriate.

(B) Consult with the child or nonminor dependent, in an age or developmentally appropriate manner, regarding the child's or nonminor dependent's sexual orientation and gender identity and what information the child or nonminor dependent wishes to disclose and to whom.

(i) The Resource Family shall not disclose information about the child's or nonminor dependent's sexual orientation and/or gender identity against the child's or nonminor dependent's wishes, unless compelled to do so by law or court order.

(C) Discuss the factors considered in making the determination, as specified in paragraph (5), with the child's or nonminor dependent's social worker or probation officer, including the following elements:

(i) The bedroom sharing arrangement ensures the health and safety of each child and/or nonminor dependent.

(ii) The children and/or nonminor dependents are compatible, including the adopted, biological, and guardianship children of the Resource Family who will be sharing the room.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subsection (c), no more than two infants may share a bedroom with a Resource Family.

(e) A County may approve a documented alternative plan (DAP), pursuant to Section 10-03, that authorizes alternative ways a Resource Family may comply with subsection (b)(2), (c)(1), and (c)(2).

(f) A Resource Family who intends to accept a child or nonminor dependent with a developmental, mental, or physical disability shall make necessary modifications to the home and grounds to provide protection and assistance and to maximize the potential of a child or nonminor dependent for self-sufficiency.

(g) A Resource Family may not smoke or permit any person to smoke inside the home, and when a child or nonminor dependent is present on the outdoor grounds of the home.

(h) A Resource Family shall maintain first aid supplies appropriate to the needs of a child or nonminor dependent.

(1) A Resource Family shall ensure that a nonminor dependent has access to first aid supplies.