

# DCF Foster Home Regulation Changes

Effective June 7, 2024

## 30-47-806: Training



All foster parents must take an instructor-led first aid and CPR course. These trainings require a post skills test. All caregivers must maintain active certification.

## 30-47-816: Transportation



First aid kits are no longer required in cars.

## 30-47-819: Health Care



Caregivers of infants must be current on the pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine. Caregivers of infants and children with special medical needs also must be current on the annual influenza (flu) vaccine. Some exceptions may be granted.



Children 12 months and older are required to have a dental exam. (Previously 3 years)

## 30-47-820: General environment requirements



Each stairway with three or more stairs & a landing must have a handrail (previously 2 stairs).

Stairways & landings must be guarded on each side if there is a drop off of more than 30 inches (previously 21 inches).

Stairways with two or more stairs & a landing must be securely gated when a child in foster care under 2 years old is present (previously 3 years). Accordion gates are prohibited.



All electrical outlets in homes caring for children less than 6 years old must be covered or tamper-resistant (previously only able to be covered).



Water temperature must be maintained to ensure the health and safety of children in foster care.



One operable fire extinguisher is required in the home.



First aid kits must be readily accessible in each home.



All household cleaning supplies, chemicals and hazardous materials with warning labels must be kept in locked storage or stored out of reach of children 6 years old and younger (previously 10 years old).



Smoking products, including nicotine-based fluids, electronic or lighted cigarettes and vaporizers, must be stored out of reach of all children (no longer has an age limit).



Annual fireplace and chimney checks are no longer required.

## 30-47-821: Sleeping arrangements



Instead of age-mates, caregivers should use reasonable and prudent parent standards when determining room sharing arrangements while also considering each child's age, maturity level, behavior disorders, developmental delays, anger management and thrill-seeking behaviors.

Children in foster care less than 18 months old can sleep in the foster parents' bedroom (previously 12 months).

## 30-47-822: Safety procedures



Foster family home's address must be visible from the street.



Tornado drills must be practiced monthly (previously April-September).

## 30-47-823: Outside premises



Trampolines are allowed on the premise but must be anchored and each child must have a signed high risk form.

## 30-47-824: Swimming pools, hot tubs



Swimming pools must have a barrier on all sides at least 4 feet high (previously 5 feet).

No child less than 6 years old shall use a hot tub (previously 4 years old).

## 30-47-825: Animals



DCF removed restrictions on pit bulls, exotic animals and venomous or constricting reptiles, but animals must be friendly and pose no health, safety or wellbeing risks.

Must keep rabies vaccinations records on file.