

Foster/adoptive parents who provide wading/splash pools (less than 2 feet of water) must make sure the wading/splash pools:

- Stored out of the child/young adult's reach when not in use
- Drained at least daily and
- Stored so it does not hold water

HOT TUBS/SPAS

Foster/adoptive parents who have a hot tub must ensure the hot tub is covered with a locking cover when the hot tub is not in use.

For foster/adoptive homes that are located on or adjacent and accessible to the premises of a body of water, Refuge House must document type, location, and size of the body of water and barriers between the foster/adoptive home and the body of water.

References

§749.3131, §749.3133, §749.3135, §749.3137, §749.3139, §749.3141, §749.3143, §749.3145, §749.3147, §749.3149, Contract Term 15.A-C

DANGEROUS EQUIPMENT

Foster/adoptive homes must store dangerous tools and equipment, such as hatchets, saws, and axes, so that they are inaccessible to children/young adults. Children/young adults may use these tools and equipment with foster/adoptive parent supervision, as appropriate based on the child's or young adult's age, maturity and treatment issues.

WEAPONS, FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES AND PROJECTILES

Generally, weapons, firearms, explosive materials, and projectiles (such as darts or arrows), are permitted. However, there are some specific restrictions: if a home has weapons, firearms, explosive materials, projectiles, or toys that explode or shoot, children/young adults may not have unsupervised access to them, including locked storage and separate locked storage for the weapons and ammunition. Locked storage must be made of strong, unbreakable material. If the locked storage has a glass or another breakable front or enclosure, the guns must be secured with a locked cable or chain placed through the trigger guards. Ammunition must be stored separately from firearms.

No child or young adult may use a weapon, firearm, explosive material, projectile or toy that falls into the above category, unless the child or young adult is directly supervised by a qualified adult.

Refuge House does not generally consider common household items to be among the items affected by this policy. However, Refuge House reserves the right to identify certain toys and household items as falling into the above category and therefore being subject to the above policy. Documentation of whether a foster/adoptive home has these items present in their home will be placed in the foster/adoptive home record. Discussion of whether or not the home still has

weapons, firearms, explosive materials, or projectiles and how they are stored will be conducted to ensure compliance with this policy.

Foster/adoptive parents must provide Refuge House with all applicable licenses for guns in the home and any certificates for firearm gun training. Foster/adoptive parents shall notify Refuge House if there is a change in the type of, or an addition to weapons, firearms, explosive materials, or projectiles 24 hours prior to adding and 15 days after removing.

If a foster/adoptive parent is transporting a child/young adult in a vehicle in which there are firearms, other weapons, explosive materials or projectiles; the firearms must not be loaded, all of the aforementioned items must not be accessible to the child or young adult and the possession of a firearm must be legal.

References

§749.339(18), §749.2915, §749.2961, §749.2963, §749.2965(b), §749.2967

TRANSPORTATION

Foster/adoptive parents are responsible for providing routine transportation for the children/young adults in their care as they would for their own biological children. This includes but is not limited to, transportation to medical appointments, to therapy, and to and from school. If necessary, recreational activities, visitation, court hearings, PAL activities, conferences and meetings for permanency or transition. In the event that a foster/adoptive parent or caregiver is unable to provide transportation to or from an event or location, the foster/adoptive parent or caregiver is responsible to identify an appropriate alternative, which may also include contacting the Refuge House case manager to assist with arrangements. Failure to ensure transportation is a violation of the child's or young adult's service plan and may result in corrective action or closure of a Refuge House foster/adoptive home. It should be noted that Refuge House understands according to the DFPS contract that Refuge House is ultimately responsible for all transportation and in the event a foster/adoptive parent cannot transport due to extenuating circumstances and if 24 hours notice is given Refuge House will arrange transportation.

VEHICLES USED TO TRANSPORT CHILDREN/YOUNG ADULTS

Must be maintained in safe operating condition at all times and inspected and registered according to federal, state and local laws. Foster/adoptive parents should own a vehicle that accommodates the home's licensed capacity. When transporting children/young adults, the driver and all passengers must follow all federal, state and local laws when driving, including laws on the use of child-passenger safety systems, seat belts and liability insurance. Older children and young adults in the home may transport a child or young adult if the child/young adult has a valid driver's license and the service planning teams for the child(ren) or young adult(s) being transported, and the child or young adult transporting (if applicable) approve of the transportation arrangements.

