



## **Family Child Care Licensing**

### **POLICY STATEMENT: Exits and Evacuations**

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102 CMR 7.07 (15) (b) 1-3 requires that licensed family child care programs have at least two separate exits to the outside, approved by the Department. These exits and escape routes must be kept clear of obstructions, free of hazards, and must be well lit.

#### **Single Family and Duplex Homes**

Two exits means two separate doorways leading from the home or apartment building to the outside ground level. Doorways include front, back and side doors (including sliding glass doors) that exit via stairs or a ramp to the ground level outside. When exiting by stairway of 4 or more steps, the stairway must be equipped with handrails. Open stairways used by children younger than school age must have railings or banisters installed along the open or unprotected sides. Bulkheads and garage doors used as exits from the family child care home must remain unlocked at all times when children are in care. They may be left closed if the educator can easily open the bulkhead or garage door from the inside and safely evacuate all children in a timely fashion. In the event of the loss of electricity, the educator must be able to manually open the garage door. Balconies above ground level that do not have stairs or a ramp to ground level are *not* acceptable exits. When the approved licensed space includes basement space, the two means of egress must not be two adjacent doors (i.e. cannot pass one door to get to another). When the approved child care space includes basement space, both exits may be ground level doors, garage or bulkhead doors, or stairs leading from the basement to a first floor exit. Doors exiting to ladders are *not* acceptable exits. Windows may *not* be used as exits, except in homes where they have been approved in writing prior to July 1, 2003, in accordance with standards in effect at that time.

#### **Apartments**

In an apartment within an apartment building, there may be only one exit from the apartment. If the apartment meets the building code requirements for a dwelling unit, and there are two separate exits from the apartment building to the outside, the two building exits will be sufficient to meet the requirements of 102 CMR 7.07(15)(b)1-3. One exit is *not* sufficient for a converted attic or basement apartment unless the applicant or provider demonstrates that the conversion meets building code requirements through provision of a certificate of occupancy for the unit.

Effective 7/1/12, in accordance with requirements of regulations number 7.11(7)(g)(h) educators who provide care above a third floor level must submit evidence or demonstrate that they are able to evacuate children in a safe and timely manner.

*For helpful information on a variety of child care topics, be sure to visit the EEC website*