

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Family Living Homes
(55 Pa.Code Chapter 6500)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – January 2016

The clarifications and interpretations below will remain on the Department's web site until the information is included in the next updated Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG).

Regulation: § 6500.71 – Emergency Telephone Numbers

§ 6500.71 - Telephone numbers of the nearest hospital, police department, fire department, ambulance and poison control center shall be on or by each telephone in the home.

Question: If a home has 911 posted on or by each telephone, is this sufficient for the poison control center?

ANSWER: No; not all situations regarding poisons may require emergency services. Poison control centers offer free, confidential medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Poison control centers provide immediate, free and expert treatment advice and referral over the telephone in case of exposure to poisonous or toxic substances. They provide helpful information and may help to reduce unnecessary hospital visits. Therefore, the poison control center phone number must be posted on or by each telephone in the home.

Regulation: § 6500.78(b) – Exterior Conditions

§ 6500.78(b) - The yard and outside of the home shall be well maintained and free from unsafe conditions.

Question: Is it permissible for a home to have an unfenced pond, lake or water feature on its property?

ANSWER: It depends. There is no single list of what constitutes an "unsafe condition." While some unsafe conditions may be obvious (such as broken glass on a walkway or poison ivy in an outdoor seating area), others will be dictated by the needs of the individuals served in the home. For example, homes located close to busy roads or highways must ensure that the individuals served in the home can safely navigate or avoid such areas,

and homes with an unfenced pond, lake, or water feature on the premises must ensure that individuals served in the home can safely avoid a body of water. Potential "unsafe conditions" should be addressed in the individual's assessment. Potentially unsafe conditions will be determined on a case-by-case basis.