



February 5, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of new legislation regarding the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in homes and dwellings.

**New York State
Office of
Children &
Family
Services**

**David A. Paterson
Governor**

**Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner**

Amanda's Law, named after Amanda Hansen, a teenager whose life was tragically ended by a carbon monoxide leak from a defective boiler while she was sleeping at a friend's house in January 2009, was passed in the 2009 Session of the New York State Legislature. These revised standards take effect on February 22, 2010 and establish a new requirement for installation of carbon monoxide detectors in one-family homes, two-family homes, dwellings located in condominiums or cooperatives, and multiple dwellings. The revised standards apply to Licensed and Registered child care programs, and residential programs which have been issued operating certificates by OCFS; including institutions, group homes and agency operated boarding homes. In addition, the revised standards also apply to certified or approved foster family boarding homes.

Capital View Office Park

52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY
12144-2796

In order to comply with the recently passed Amanda's Law, effective Feb 22, 2010 all residential buildings licensed by New York State Agencies will be required to have Carbon Monoxide Alarms installed on the lowest story having a sleeping area. The specifics regarding the need for battery operated versus hard wired units, the need for interconnected units or alternate power sources can be found in the full narrative of Amanda's Law. This law and those portions of the amended New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code that detail the requirements for compliance can be found at:

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/code/COAlarm.htm>

It is our understanding that New York City programs have been required to be in compliance with a similar ordinance passed in 2004. Programs in New York City should reach out to their local fire and safety representatives with any questions about compliance.

We have attached a fact sheet with citations of the new law and its requirements. Questions regarding implementation of Amanda's Law may be directed to the regional office fire and safety representatives for clarification. OCFS will be issuing a more detailed release on this subject shortly.

Sincerely,



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Laura M. Velez
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Welfare
and Community Services

Janice Molnar
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services

Attachment