

1 10A NCAC 13G .0312 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

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3 **10A NCAC 13G .0312 OUTSIDE ENTRANCE AND EXITS**

4 (a) In family care homes, ~~all~~ floor levels shall have at least two exits. ~~If there are only two, the exit or exit access~~
5 ~~doors shall be so located and constructed to minimize the possibility that both may be blocked by any one fire or other~~
6 ~~emergency condition.~~ outside entrances/exits that are so located and constructed to minimize the possibility that both
7 outside entrances/exits from the home may be blocked by a fire or other emergency condition. Exiting through another
8 resident's bedroom is not permitted.

9 (b) At least one outside entrance/exit door shall be a minimum width of three feet and another shall be a minimum
10 width of two feet and eight inches.

11 (c) At least one principal outside entrance/exit for the residents' use shall be at grade level or accessible by ramp with
12 a one inch rise for each 12 inches of length of the ramp. For the purposes of this Rule, a principal outside entrance/exit
13 is one that is most often used by residents for vehicular access. If the home has ~~any~~ a resident that must have physical
14 assistance with evacuation, the home shall have two outside entrances/exits at grade level or accessible by a ramp.

15 (d) All ~~exit~~ outside entrance/exit door locks shall be ~~easily operable,~~ operable by a single hand ~~motion,~~ motion from
16 the inside at all times without ~~keys.~~ keys, tools, or special knowledge. Existing ~~deadbolts or deadbolts and~~ turn buttons
17 on the inside of ~~exit doors~~ outside entrances/exit doors, including screen and storm doors, shall be removed or disabled.

18 (e) All outside entrances/exits shall be free of all obstructions or impediments to allow for full instant use in case of
19 fire or other emergency.

20 (f) All ~~steps, steps,~~ porches, ~~stoops~~ stoops, and ramps shall ~~be provided with~~ have handrails and ~~guardrails.~~ guards.
21 Handrails shall be on both sides of steps and ramps, including sides bordered by the facility wall. Handrails shall
22 extend the full length of steps and ramps. Guards shall be on open sides of steps, porches, stoops, and ramps. For the
23 purposes of this Rule, guards are building components, or a system of building components located at or near the open
24 sides of elevated walking surfaces that minimizes the possibility of a fall from a walking surface to an adjacent change
25 in elevation.

26 (g) In homes with at least one resident who is determined by a physician or is otherwise known to be ~~disoriented or a~~
27 ~~wanderer,~~ each exit door for resident use disoriented or exhibiting wandering behavior, all outside entrance/exit doors
28 shall ~~be equipped with~~ have a continuously sounding device that is activated when the door is opened. The sound
29 shall be ~~of sufficient~~ of such volume that it can be heard by staff. If a central system of remote sounding devices is
30 provided, the control panel for the system shall be powered by the facility's electrical system, and be located in ~~the~~
31 ~~bedroom of the person on call, the office area or in a location~~ an area accessible only to staff authorized by the
32 ~~administrator to operate the control panel.~~ to staff. The requirements of this Paragraph shall apply to new and existing
33 facilities.

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35 *History Note: Authority G.S. 131D-2.16; 143B-165;*

36 *Eff. January 1, 1977;*

37 *Readopted Eff. October 31, 1977;*

1 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2005; April 1, 1987; July 1, 1984; April 1, 1984;*
2 *Recodified from 10A NCAC 13G .0311 Eff. July 1, ~~2005~~-2005;*
3 *Readopted Eff. February 1, 2025.*