

(Rev. 135, Issued: 02-27-15, Effective: 04-27-15, Implementation: 04-27-15)

(2) If a bedroom is below grade level, it must have a window that--

(i) Is usable as a second means of escape by client(s) occupying the room; and

(ii) Is no more than 44 inches (measured to the window sill) above the floor unless the facility is surveyed under the Health Care Occupancy Chapter of the Life Safety Code, in which case the window must be no more than 36 inches (measured to the window sill) above the floor.

Guidance §483.470(b)(2)

The intent of the regulation is to prohibit the housing of clients in basements that are entirely below grade. Clients may be housed on the lower level of housing (e.g. a bi-level house), provided the window height requirements are met and the window is of sufficient size to be used as a means of escape.