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Department of Homeland Security
Code Services Section
302 Washington Street, Room W246
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Reference variance number: 16-06-02

To whom it may concern,

Brady Johnson has filed for a variance from the use of double-keyed locks within a residence for a mentally-challenged individual. The Bloomington Fire Department feels that there are other methods that would be far safer than the use of a double-keyed lock in case of emergency. The double-keyed lock presents issues in the event that the individual's attendant is incapacitated or unable to reach the door. The Bloomington Fire Department suggests two alternative methods for securing the individual and ensuring life safety in the event of an emergency.

First, Mr. Johnson could use a magnetic locking device connected to smoke detection, both inside and outside of the mentally-challenged individual's area. This would allow the door to be unlocked automatically in case of a fire, but would allow the door to remain secured at all other times.

Second, Mr. Johnson could use a delayed egress lock with an alarm that would require constant pressure for 15 to 30 seconds before the door would open. The alarm would notify the attendant that the individual was trying to exit and give the attendant time to respond. The same method could be used on interior bedroom doors, as well as on the main exit doors. The system includes a key override to allow immediate egress when necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of these alternate methods.

Respectfully,

Timothy H. Clapp
Fire Inspection Officer
Bloomington Fire Department