

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
GENERAL GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #19  
PROCEDURES OF OFFICE OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT  
FOR CLASSIFYING BEDROOMS WITHIN DWELLINGS**

**AUTHORITY**

The Suffolk County Sanitary Code sets forth requirements for approval of water supply and sewage disposal systems. The statutory authority for these guidelines can be found in Article 5, Section 760-502 and Article 7 Section 760-705A. Detailed specifications can be found in Standards for Approval of Plans and Construction - Sewage Disposal Systems for Single-Family Residences. In addition, the Department is bound to comply with the standards set forth in the New York State Department of Health Appendix 75-A.

**PURPOSE**

The Standards for Approval of Plans and Construction - Sewage Disposal Systems for Single-Family Residences (Standards) presently do not define the term "bedroom". In addition, state design standards require that sanitary systems be designed to accommodate the rooms within a residence that will or can be used as bedrooms. This document provides guidance to be used by departmental staff to evaluate and classify proposed rooms as potential bedrooms for the purpose of sanitary system design.

**GUIDANCE**

When applications are made for the approval of construction for new residences, additions, or accessory apartments we shall count bedrooms as follows:

1. The following rooms will be considered as an integral part of the structure and will not add to the overall bedroom count for the house:
  - Kitchen
  - 1 - Living room
  - 1 - Dining room

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- 1 - Family room (If omitted from floor plan, another room such as a Den, Study or Office may be substituted in its place)
  - Bathrooms
  - Open Basement/Utility room
  - Foyer
  - Garage
2. The following rooms will be counted as potential bedrooms and will be added to the bedroom count for sizing of the sanitary system:
- Bedrooms
  - Studies
  - Offices
  - Play rooms
  - Media rooms
  - Any other room not listed in section 1 above.

Sizing of the sanitary system shall be in accordance with the Standards for Approval of Plans and Construction - Sewage Disposal Systems for Single-Family Residences.

**EFFECTIVE**

**This document is for guidance purposes only and becomes effective for all applications received after the date of this memorandum. This document should apply in most cases, but it is not a standard and is not meant to substitute for the discretion and common sense of the review staff.**

Issued by:                                      Walter J. Hilbert, PE, Chief  
    Office of Wastewater Management