



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6621**



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Edition 2004

Section 1009.11

Question:

Is it the intent of this section to forbid the removal of a handrail at the front steps of a church?

Answer

Yes if the building was permitted under the Florida Building Code 2004. Otherwise the wrong code is being applied. If they are renovating or modifying the entrance you must begin with the current Florida Building Code Existing (FBCE) and refer to the building code in effect at the time the building was permitted.

Commentary:

If this is a monumental stair, then the code in effect at the time of permitting had specific requirements on the placement of handrails.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.