



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6966**



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Edition 2010

Section R310.1

Question:

Is it the intent of this section to not allow a porch completely around a house as this would not meet the open to the atmosphere.

Answer

No. The exception allows emergency escape and rescue openings to open into a screened porch as long as the screen porch is open to the atmosphere and leads directly to yard, court, or public way. The screen enclosure must be provided with a door leading away from the residence.

Commentary:

Should the porch not be screened a person exiting the emergency escape could proceed directly away from the residence. Unless the porch is elevated, then there is the guardrail and drop which must be negotiated. Should the porch be screened it would be necessary to have a door through the screen enclosure in close proximity to the emergency escape. Otherwise one must move around the porch to find a door in the screened in porch instead of immediately moving away from a dangerous situation, perhaps creating panic and complicating the escape. A case-by-case review by the building official may be appropriate in order to ensure the level of intended life safety is not compromised.

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.