

STATE LAW PROHIBITS LOCKS ON BATHROOM DOORS FROM INSIDE THE BEDROOM

Under the Statewide Building Code (2003 edition) and Statewide Fire Prevention Code (2003 edition) under code section:

1008.1.8 the code states that “Egress doors **shall** be readily open able from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort”.

In case of a shared bathroom between suites the doors that lead from the bathroom to each suite are both considered exit/egress doors for the purposes of an individual being able to leave a space in the event of an emergency. The code allows for the occupant of the bathroom to lock themselves in the bathroom for privacy however the code does not allow the doors to be locked from the suite side. Locking of the doors from the suite side of the door would effectively trap an individual inside of the space without an exit path, which has obvious life safety concerns.