



## Washington State Building Code Council

*Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare*

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### STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 17-12

**CODE:** 2015 International Residential Code

**SECTION:** IRC 311 Means of Egress

**QUESTION:** The city has a proposal for a garage with an attached conditioned hobby room and bathroom. The proposal is for the egress path to travel through the garage. They show windows that meet egress. Section R311.1 uses the term *dwelling*: “*Dwellings* shall be provided with a means of egress”. The definition of *dwelling* it states “...occupied for living purposes”. Section R311.2 uses the term dwelling Unit: “Not less than one egress door shall be provided for each dwelling unit.” Am I correct that this "hobby room" cannot exit through the garage, but does not have to have a side hinged door in accordance with R311.2 ?

**ANSWER:** **No. The space described is considered accessory to the dwelling unit and can use the garage as a means of egress. An additional egress door is not needed.**

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** Mason County