

Normalcy/Caregiver Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard

SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

ORC: 2151.315; 5103.162 OAC: NA USC: NA CFR: NA	ORIGINAL: 9/2016 REVISIONS: 10/6/17; 2/11/20 RELATED FORM(S): NA RELATED PROCEDURE/POLICY(IES): NA
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety & Security
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Services - All Departments
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All Staff
 Bargaining Unit
 Non-Bargaining
 Management

POLICY:

Summit County Children Services (SCCS) believes that all children benefit from participation in age appropriate social, educational and enrichment experiences that promote well-being. SCCS further recognizes that involvement in these programs helps children to build relationships, develop skills, and prepare for adulthood. SCCS values birth parents' involvement with their children while in foster care and strives to be sensitive to their input.

PROCEDURE:

Caregivers are responsible for making decisions for the children in their homes as they relate to normal, everyday activities. Caregivers should use caution and verify that the decisions made do not violate any safety plans, court orders, case plan objectives or agency policy. Caregivers should consider the following Normalcy and the Reasonable Prudent Standard factors and questions when making decisions regarding a child's participation or lack thereof in an activity:

1. Child's age, maturity and developmental level:

- a. Does the child function at a level typical of same age peers?

Example: Even though a child is old enough to view a PG-13 movie, could the content trigger behavioral issues or strong emotional responses for the child?

2. Potential risk factors:

- a. What are the potential risks of the activity?
- b. What are the safety factors?
- c. What is the supervision level? Is it direct or indirect?

Example: What is the difference in risk difference of allowing a child to ride with a friend to school vs. riding with a friend to a late-night concert?

3. Best interest of the child:

- a. Is the activity something that the child wants to do and is interested in doing?
- b. How will the child be impacted if he does or does not participate?

4. Emotional and developmental growth:

- a. Does the activity help build the child's self-esteem and develop the social skills he/she needs?

5. Family-like living experience:

- a. Is the activity typical of same-age peers?
- b. Is it an activity you would allow your birth/adopted child to do?

7. Child's behavioral history:

- a. How does the child behave toward other children and adults?
- b. Is the child typically able to follow house and school rules?
- c. Does the youth have a history of breaking the law?
- d. Does the activity provide more or less structure than what the child is accustomed to?
- e. Would additional supervision or involvement from you allow your child to benefit and participate in this activity?

Caregivers should always contact the child's caseworker and/or the foster home coordinator assigned to the foster home to discuss any requests for a child to participate in an unusual activity (an activity that is not routine for the majority of families and children). Caregivers should communicate concerns and seek guidance in a planful and timely manner. In the event the caregiver and SCCS disagree over the youth participating in an activity, SCCS makes the ultimate decision.

Pursuant to Ohio, a caregiver is immune from liability if they used a reasonable and prudent parent standard to authorize participation in an activity.

SCCS Caregiver Activity Related Guideline

<p>Spend the night at a friend's home. Have a friend over to spend the night.</p>	<p>Caregivers must know the friend's family and have a conversation with the other parent before approving overnights.</p> <p>If concerns, caregiver and assigned worker can discuss the child's behavior and appropriateness to spend the night with a friend or have a friend over to spend the night.</p>
<p>Unsupervised time in the community with friends</p>	<p>Caregiver should review the child's Individual Child Care agreement and discuss unsupervised time with the caseworker.</p>
<p>Date</p>	<p>Restrictions related to unsupervised time in the community and transportation will apply.</p>
<p>Own a cell phone</p>	<p>Not recommended for children under 13. Caregivers are encouraged to not allow child to have a cell phone after bedtime.</p>
<p>Have social media accounts</p>	<p>Social media sites are prohibited for children in care under the age of 13. Youth in care age 13 or older may request the use of social media sites but will not be permitted to post identifying information. The use of social media should be monitored by their substitute caregiver.</p>
<p>Get a job or internship</p>	<p>Work experience and internships are encouraged for age-appropriate youth.</p>
<p>Open and maintain a bank account</p>	<p>Youth in care have the right to "his or her own money and personal property" as age appropriate.</p>
<p>Participate in extracurricular activities such as school dances, field trips, sports, community and cultural events</p>	<p>Caregivers must encourage and support each child in Agency custody to participate in community school, and recreational and cultural heritage experience as appropriate to the age and functioning level of the children. Caregivers shall arrange appropriate transportation.</p>
<p>Permission slips, enrollments, and other forms, requiring guardian signature</p>	<p>Caregivers may sign standard permission slips for school field trips and activities, enrollment forms for Early Intervention and Head Start, and daycare enrollment forms. Caregivers are not permitted to sign permission slips or any forms which have releases of liability or indemnity in the language.</p>
<p>Participate in religious activities</p>	<p>Youth in care have the right to enjoy freedom of religion. Meals must conform to religious dietary restrictions. A caregiver must permit a child in the custody of SCCs to practice the chosen religious faith of the child or his parents unless it is not in their best interests. No religious procedure can take place without the approval of the birth family, nor can medical treatment be secured if it conflicts with religious tenets or practices.</p>
<p>Ride in a car with a friend who has a license. Ride in a car with an adult, such as a friend's parent.</p>	<p>Any person transporting a child in the custody of the agency in a motor vehicle must have a valid driver's license and must carry liability insurance. The vehicle must be in a safe condition according to state laws and rules regarding use of seat belts/car seats apply.</p>

	Caregivers are expected to consider the Normalcy and Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard when making transportation decisions for children in custody.
Ride the city bus	Caregivers will encourage and support children 16 years of age or older to participate in an independent living program or teach independent living skills to them.
Obtain driver's license	Youth in custody may not drive or obtain a license while in the custody of SCCS. Exceptions considered on a case-by-case basis.
Ride motorized vehicles such as motorcycles and ATV's.	Children in the custody of SCCS may not be transported by motorcycles or other similar types of vehicles. Caregivers may allow youth in custody to ride dirt bikes and ATV's on a recreational basis provided the Normalcy and Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard are utilized. Caregivers must ensure youth are riding motorized vehicles in accordance with the recommended age requirements and guidelines. Youth must have a helmet, successfully complete a safety course and there is adult supervision.
Participate in activities with weapons such as hunting and target shooting	SCCS requires that all weapons be stored in an inoperable condition in a locked area inaccessible to children. Caregivers may allow youth in custody to participate in supervised activities involving weapons provided the Normalcy and Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard are utilized. Such activities could include but are not limited to archery and paintball in the context of camp or Scout Programs. Hunting may be permitted on a case-by-case basis with agency and parental approval, proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course and adult supervision.
Temporarily alter appearance (haircut, hair dye) Permanently alter appearance (tattoo, piercings).	Birth family is advised during family team meetings that haircuts, hair dye, tattoos and piercing are not permitted without their permission.
Be responsible for prescribed medication or over-the-counter medication.	Caregivers must administer prescription drugs to children in the custody of the agency for whom the medication was prescribed according to the physician instructions. Children including teenagers may not take medication without adult supervision.
Have picture appear in media such as newspaper or website.	Children in the temporary custody of SCCS are not permitted to appear in any media site without the permission of the agency.