



Resource Family Approval

THE CURRENT REASONABLE AND PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD

The reasonable and prudent parent standard is key to promoting normalcy for youth in foster care. Further, it is an invaluable tool to help a caregiver meet the goal of providing a home which is not only safe, stable and loving, but one which is as “normal” as possible – a home which allows a child in foster care the freedom to grow into adulthood. This standard is based on consideration of a child’s age, maturity, mental and physical health, developmental level, behavioral propensities and aptitude. It allows caregivers to make decisions about participation in age or developmentally appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities for a child in their care so as to promote the most family-like environment for the child.

The term “age or developmentally appropriate” means both of the following: (a) Activities or items that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity or that are determined to be developmentally appropriate for a child, based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group. (b) In the case of a specific child, activities or items that are suitable for the child based on the developmental stages attained by the child with respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of the child.

GOAL OF THE REASONABLE AND PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD

- Provide the youth with a “normal” life experience in out home care.
- Empower the out-of-home caregiver to encourage youth to engage in extracurricular activities that promote child well-being.
- Allow for reasonable parenting decisions to be made by the out-of-home caregiver without waiting to obtain the social worker or Juvenile Court approval.
- Remove barriers to recruitment and retention of high quality foster caregivers.
- Reduce the need for social workers to either give permission or to obtain Juvenile Court approval for reasonable care giving activities, should be care-giving.
- Respect the rights of youth in out-of-home care.

In applying the reasonable and prudent parent standard, a Resource Family shall consider the following

- The age, maturity, and developmental level of a child.
- The nature and inherent risks of harm of the activity.
- The best interests of a child based on information known by the Resource Family.
- The behavioral history of a child and the child’s ability to safely participate in the activity.
- The importance of encouraging a child’s emotional and developmental growth.
 - Emotional and development growth may include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - The child’s level of understanding about healthy relationships.



- The child's level of understanding about sexuality and body development.
- Feelings about spirituality.
- Other stages of maturity experienced during adolescence.

A Resource Family shall consider information provided or known about a child when determining the best interests of a child. This information includes the history, behavioral tendencies, mental and physical health, medications, abilities and limitations, sexual orientation, gender identity, developmental level of, and court orders for the child. A Resource Family may contact the child's social worker, physician, counselor, or educator to obtain the information.

OCCASIONAL SHORT-TERM BABYSITTING

Every caregiver may arrange for occasional short-term ("Short-term" means no more than 24 consecutive hours.) babysitting of their foster child and allow individuals to supervise the foster child on occasions, including, but not limited to:

- When the foster parent has a medical or other health care appointment
- Grocery or other shopping
- Personal grooming appointments
- Special occasions for the foster parents
- Foster parent training classes
- School-related meetings (such as parent-teacher conferences)
- Business meetings
- Adult social gatherings
- An occasional evening out by the foster parent

Caregivers shall use a reasonable and prudent parent standard in determining and selecting appropriate babysitters for occasional short-term use.

- The caregiver shall endeavor to provide the babysitter with the following information before leaving the child for purposes of short-term care:
 - Information about the child's emotional, behavioral, medical or physical conditions, if any, necessary to provide care for the child during the time the foster child is being supervised by the babysitter.
 - Any medication that should be administered to the foster child during the time the foster child is being supervised by the babysitter.
 - Emergency contact information that is valid during the time the foster child is being supervised by the babysitter.
- Babysitters selected by the caregiver to provide occasional short-term care to a foster child under the provisions of this section shall be exempt from any department regulation requiring health screening or cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification or training.

Applicant Signature

Date

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Date