

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fort Richardson Child Supervision Policy (Post Command Policy 24-11)

1. **REFERENCES**: Memorandum, Headquarters, United States Army Community and Family Support Center, CFSC CYS, 11 July 2000, subject: Out of School Child Supervision Requirements for Elementary and Middle School Children and Youth During Parental Duty Hours.
2. **PURPOSE**: The purpose of this memorandum is to establish a post policy on child supervision requirements that is in compliance with the above listed HQDA policy. While recognizing that the care and supervision of children is a parental responsibility and that parents are in the best position to know the maturity and supervision needs of their children, this policy sets forth the minimum supervision requirements for children who reside on or are guests on FRA. Research shows that unsupervised children are at greater risk for personal injury, injury to other persons and property, early sexual activity, substance abuse, and are more apt to engage in vandalism and petty crimes. The National Center for Juvenile Justice shows the majority of juvenile violent crimes are committed between the hours 1600 and 1800.
3. **EFFECTIVE DATE**: This policy is effective on the first day of the 2002 school year for students entering 5th grade and the first day of school year 2003 school year for student entering 6th grade.
4. **DEFINITIONS**: "Supervision" is the act of watching, directing, and guiding a child's activities in order to ensure their safety and well-being. It is also a planned, consistent way to provide ongoing care for children to include necessities of nourishment, sanitation, and well being.
5. **POLICY**: As delineated below and in Table 1 (enclosed), this policy is based on a child's grade in school, not the child's age. Table 2 (enclosed) is an age-grade conversion chart for children who are home-schooled. During the summer school break period, children are considered to still be in the grade they just completed. Regardless of the category a child falls into, parents are still responsible for assessing weather conditions and the individual capabilities of their children, especially if the children have special needs, before deciding on appropriate supervision options. Incidents of unsupervised children should be reported to the Military Police Desk at 384-0823 who will investigate the incident.
 - a. **Newborn - 1st Day of Kindergarten**: Children in this category require continual supervision and may never be left alone or unattended.

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b. **Kindergarten - 1st Day of 7th Grade**: Children in this category may not be left alone at home or in a vehicle, but may be allowed to play outside provided they are within sight or hearing distance of a parent or person who has agreed to supervise the child's activities. Children in this category may also travel to and from school, Youth Services (YS), School Age Services (SAS), or scheduled community events. Children in this category may not provide babysitting services.

c. **7th Grade - 1st Day of 10th Grade**: Children in this category may be allowed to remain at home alone for up to 10 hours, but not for overnight, if they are sufficiently mature to articulate and follow an emergency plan. Parents must have a prearranged, verifiable telephone check-in plan or a prearranged, verifiable plan for a neighbor or friend to physically check on the child at least once during the time the child is home alone.

d. **10th Grade - 12th Grade**: Children in grades 10-12 may be allowed to remain home alone for up to 24 hours if sufficiently mature to articulate and follow an emergency plan. Parents must have a prearranged, verifiable telephone check-in plan with their child or a prearranged, verifiable plan for a neighbor or friend to physically check on the child at least twice during the time the child is home alone in excess of 10 hours. Children must know where one parent is and know how to contact that parent.

6. **BABYSITTING**:

a. Children in 7th grade and above may provide babysitting services on post. However, children in 7th grade through the 1st day of 10th grade may not babysit in excess of 10 hours per day. Children in 10th grade through 12th grade may babysit siblings for up to 24 hours or other non-sibling children for up to 12 hours.

b. In accordance with Army Regulation 608-10, babysitters may not provide care in their own quarters on a regular basis without certification through Family Child Care and approval by the Post Commander.

c. The minimum age to be listed in the CYS Babysitter List in Central Registration is age 13. The minimum age to attend the free CYS babysitter training course is age 12 with parent permission.

7. **CHILD SUPERVISION OPTIONS**:

a. SAS provides care for 1st through 6th grade youth on a monthly, daily and drop-in care basis.

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b. Table 3 (enclosed) lists child supervision criteria and supervision options for parents to consider. Parents should assess their children's capabilities before selecting a child supervision option. Parents who need assistance in identifying an option that meets their requirements should contact the CYS Central Registration Office at 384-7483.

8. The point of contact for this policy is Child and Youth Services at Fort Richardson, 384-1014.

Encls
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//signed//
DAVID L. SHUTT
LTC, AR
Post Commander

Table 1 - Child-Supervision Policy (Assuming Safe Weather Conditions)

This policy applies 24 hours a day, seven days a week to those who are assigned to, supported by, or are guests on Fort Richardson. The care and supervision of children is a parental responsibility. Supervision is a planned, consistent way to provide ongoing care for children to include necessities of nourishment, sanitation, and well being. This policy is based on the child’s grade in school and, during summer, children are considered to be in the grade just completed.

Age or Grade of Child	May Be Left Alone at Home	May Be Left Alone Overnight	May Be Left Outside Unattended	May Be Left Unattended in a Car	May Babysit
Newborn through 1 st day of Kindergarten	No	No	No	No	No
Kindergarten through 1 st day of 7 th grade	No	No	In a playground or yard with immediate access (sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision (note 1). May walk to and from school and other supervised activities alone if sufficiently mature.	No	No
Grades 7 through 1 st day of 10 th Grade	For up to 10 hours, but not overnight. (notes 2,4)	No	Yes (notes 2,4)	For up to 15 minutes with the keys removed, doors locked, and the handbrake applied.	For up to 10 hours (notes 3,4).
Grades 10 through 12	For up to 24 hours, overnight, but a neighbor or friend must check on them twice a day. Minors will have telephone access to a neighbor in case of emergency and must know where at least one parent is. (notes 2,4)	Yes (notes 2,4)	Yes (notes 2,4)	Yes	For up to 24 hours for a sibling and 12 hours for others. (notes 3,4)

NOTE:

1. Adult supervision is defined as someone who has or assumes responsibility for the child (for example, a parent, guardian, care provider, friend).
2. Home-alone training by Child and Youth Services (CYS) or other source is highly recommend.
3. CYS babysitting training strongly recommended.
4. Parents must have a prearranged, verifiable telephone or in-person check in plan. Child must be mature enough to articulate and follow an emergency plan. Weather conditions must be safe.

Table 2
Conversion From Age to Grade (for Home-Schooled Children)

Age	4 –5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grade	Kindergarten	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Age	12	13	14	15	16	17-18	
Grade	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	

Table 3
Child Supervision Criteria and Options

Supervision is a planned, consistent way to provide ongoing care for children to include necessities of nourishment, sanitation, and well being.

Supervision Level	Definition	School Grade/Age Range	Supervision Options
Direct	Someone has responsibility for the child (for example, parent, guardian, care provider, friend).	Elementary school (kindergarten through grade 7); generally 5 to 12 years old.	CYS-sponsored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-age services (SAS) • Child development center (CDC) • Family Child Care Other options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-home babysitter • Nanny
Monitored	An adult is aware of child's location and activities. An emergency contact is available at all times.	Grades 7 through 9; generally 12 to 14 years old.	CYS-sponsored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAS and Youth Services programs • Team sports • Instructional classes • Clubs and volunteer activities Community resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated adult • Schools • Churches • Scouts
Monitored self-care	Parent have assessed their child's ability and allowed the child to monitor him – or herself.		