

REASONABLE and PRUDENT PARENTING STANDARD



Questions to Consider When Making a Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Decision

Is the activity age appropriate?

Is the activity safe?

Is the youth mature enough to participate?

Are there additional permission slips needed from the agency in making the decision?

Is the activity developmentally appropriate?

Is the activity in the child's best interest?

Does the activity promote well-being?



Affords Resource Parents Greater Responsibility With Making Careful and Sensible Decisions for Their Foster Youth

IMPORTANT FEATURES of the REASONABLE and PRUDENT PARENTING STANDARD

- Applies to all youth in out-of-home placement
- Promotes a youth's health, safety and best interest
- Encourages emotional and developmental growth for youth
- Provides youth with normalcy

HOW the REASONABLE and PRUDENT PARENTING STANDARD is APPLIED?

With special consideration given to the age, maturity, developmental capabilities, safety and normalcy of youth, resource parents can make decisions such as:

- Babysitting, dating, social activities, sporting events, extracurricular activities, day and overnight visits with family and friends, etc.
- Note: Reasonable and Prudent Parenting decisions cannot supersede an agency court order unless the youth is in eminent risk of harm or danger.
- Reasonable and Prudent Parenting decisions does not apply regarding out-of-state travel without agency pre-approval.

Established in September 2014 with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. There are three titles of the Act. Title II speaks about the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard.



WHAT IS NORMALCY?

- The ability to easily participate in age appropriate social, scholastic, and enrichment activities.
- Ensuring that a child's range of experiences while in foster care does not differ from the experiences of any child the same age.
- Activities that promote the child's well-being.
- Allowing foster youth to have a reasonable curfew.
- The ability to obtain employment, have contact with family members, join clubs, get a learner's permit and/or drivers license, etc.
- Allowing a child to transition into adulthood by providing necessary insight and developmental growth.
- For special needs youth, activities should be therapeutic in nature and specifically target the disability.
- LGBTQ youth should be able to participate in LGBT activities and events.

Additional Resources and Information

Strengthening Families and Preventing Sex Trafficking Act, H.R. 4980, Public Law 113-183. The Act is located in Section I, Subtitle B of the Law. <https://www.congress.gov/113/bills/hr4980/BILLS-113hr4980enr.pdf>

Definition of PL 113: Age or Developmentally Appropriate – (i) 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- age appropriate for a child, based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group; and (ii) 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.

SSA CW Policy Directive #16-16 DHR website in the services section under Foster Parent Policies

SSA CW Policy Directive #16-17 can be located on the DHR website in the services section under Foster

SSA CW Policy Directive #12-01 DHR website in the services section under Foster Parent Policies. http://www.dhr.state.md.us/blog/?page_id=3246

Supporting Federal Public Law, Parent

Policies. http://www.dhr.state.md.us/blog/?page_id=3246

Youth Matters: Foster Youth Handbook <http://mdconnectmylife.org/>

COMAR Regulations Currently Under Revision to Include the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard:

COMAR 17.02.25.02 Definitions
COMAR 17.02.25.08 Responsibilities of a Resource Parent
COMAR 17.02.25.14 Resource Parent Training

For specific questions, contact your Resource Home worker at your Local Department of Social Services or the child's caseworker.