

CHILD SUPERVISION AGE MATRIX

Sponsors and parents are responsible for the welfare and safety of children in the military community. Each child is unique. Personality, environment, developmental progress and maturity level are factors used to determine when children are ready to accomplish activities with little or no supervision. ***Sponsors and parents are responsible for making this decision.*** The following are minimum community standards. These guidelines apply to all Military, DOD and Invited Contractors personnel living on or off post.

Age of Child	Required Supervision	Left Alone in Quarters	Left Alone Overnight	Play Outside Unattended	Left in Car Unattended	Child Sit Siblings	Child Sit Others
Newborn -5 years old	Requires close supervision at all times.	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
6-7 years old	Direct Supervision Required	NO	NO	YES With immediate access (visual sight and hearing distance) to adult supervision. Children six years old may not walk alone to and from school or school bus stop. Children seven years old are exempt from "outside unattended" rule when walking to and from school or school bus stop. They may not walk alone & must be accompanied by a buddy or sibling so the child is not alone.	NO	NO	NO
8-9 years old	Direct Supervision Required	NO	NO	YES With ready access to an adult who is in the immediate area in case of an emergency and the Sponsor and/or parent knowing the location and activity of the child. May walk unaccompanied to and from school or school bus stop with a buddy. Parents need to buddy partner or use siblings so child is not alone.	NO	NO	NO
10-11 years old	Indirect Supervision Required This is a transitional time and children are accepting more responsibility; however they continue to require indirect supervision. Sponsor should know child's location and activities. Emergency contact available.	YES Ten year olds for up to 1 hour. Eleven year olds up to 3 hours (occasionally, not on a daily basis). Must have access to indirect supervision (neighbor, checking with Sponsor by phone).*	NO	YES With ready access to adult supervision. Sponsor checks on the child or has the child check in with sponsor, parent or caregiver hourly. Ready access can be accomplished with cell phone. Must be 30 minutes or less to respond to the child in crisis.	YES Not more than ten minutes and the keys MUST be removed and parking brake applied.	YES Eleven year olds may sit siblings 6 years and older for up to 1 hour. Ten year olds may not sit siblings.	NO
12-13 years old	Indirect Supervision required Children are approaching the adolescent years when there is need for increased responsibility. The amount of responsibility should be carefully evaluated	YES For up to six hours with ready access to adult supervision and intermittent contact with a supervisor. *	NO	YES With access to adult supervision. Sponsor checks on the child or has the child check in person or by phone every 2 hours. Parent must know child's location and activity and respond to the child within 1 hour.	YES	YES Up to 6 hours during daylight hours	YES Limit up to 6 hours. Not overnight. Babysitter Course Required.
14-16 years old	Children continue to need to know how to access Sponsor and guidance for emergency situations. Sponsors are responsible for their children and their actions.	YES No longer than 9 hours with ready access to adult supervision.	NO	YES With access to adult supervision by phone or a designated caregiver within 2 hours. Contact must be made every 3 hours.	YES	YES	YES May sit up to 9 hours, not overnight. Babysitter Course Required.
17-18 years old	Sponsors are responsible for their children and their actions as long as Family Member status is maintained.	YES No more than two consecutive overnight periods with access to adult supervision.	YES Indirect Supervision	YES Time is left up to the Sponsor's discretion.	YES	YES	YES Babysitter course required.

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Course: POC 738-3670 and/or CY5 Services Babysitter Training: POC 736-8122 is required to care for any minor child sitting children other than immediate Family members. Home Alone Self Care: POC 736-8122. **To report violations of this policy that may constitute child neglect, please call the US Army Military Police 724-3004 or Abuse Hotline 737-4101.**

*Unless there is a pattern of behavioral misconduct indicating otherwise.

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