



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT GORDON  
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FORT GORDON, GEORGIA 30905-5730

AMIM-GOW (1FF)

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Garrison Commander's Policy Memorandum No. 20 - Supervision of Children

1. Safeguarding children is the responsibility of parents and/or guardians. Before leaving children unsupervised, parents and guardians must carefully consider the amount of responsibility their children can successfully assume. Chronological age should be the basic standard, not the sole determinant, of the level of supervision children require. The consideration of the total child is particularly critical when children have any special needs. Children who are birth to 10 years of age or disabled must never be left unsupervised. The following are minimum requirements for parents and guardians concerning supervision of children.
2. Children up to grade five (children who have not yet begun their academic year in the sixth grade) require direct supervision by an adult or babysitter who is at least in the ninth grade. The person supervising must be continuously aware of the child's actions to instantly protect the child from injury or harm. Napping children need not remain within the visual range of the supervisor but should be within a distance that affords the supervisor the ability to hear the child. Outdoor play must be supervised constantly. Children outdoors must be with a babysitter or in a designated area within sight of the supervisor. Supervision should be provided so that the supervisor can intervene immediately if the need arises, i.e., within reach of vision or vocal contact. Children walking between Freedom Park School and their homes are required to have direct adult supervision.
3. Children in grades six through eight must receive monitored care in the form of being in a designated area established by the supervisor for the supervisor to make regular checks on the child. The supervisor must instruct the child to notify them before changing locations. They may be left in an unsupervised domicile during waking hours for brief periods of time (two hours or less). When possible, parents or guardians are encouraged to provide periodic follow-ups with the child telephonically. Children must be provided a telephone number where the parent(s) can be reached as well as telephone numbers for the police and fire departments and the hospital. The name and telephone number of a designated adult who can immediately be available in the event of an emergency must be provided to the child.
4. Youth who are in grades nine through 12 can provide self-care for longer periods of time, not to exceed 12 hours, consistent with parental discretion and consideration of

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the child's emotional and physical capabilities. Parents must always remain responsible for their children. Parents and guardians who allow an appropriately aged child to provide self-care must provide the child with a key, and telephone numbers to the police, fire department and hospital at 911. Additionally, parents must provide a telephone number where the parent(s) can be reached, the expected time of return, and the name and telephone number of a designated adult who can be immediately available in the event of an emergency. The designated adult must be made aware of his/her responsibility by the parent(s). Both parents and guardians are responsible for, and must be aware of, the safety conditions of their children when they are not with them.

5. When parents use an adolescent babysitter, the sitter's emotional, intellectual and physical capabilities must always be considered. Children who are in grade eight may babysit for short periods of time, not to exceed six hours. Youth who are in 10<sup>th</sup> grade may babysit for periods not to exceed eight hours.

6. Family members, who provide care in their own homes for children other than their own, must comply with all Army Childcare and Child Development Services regulations and policies. Adult Family members providing childcare for others must complete the Family Childcare (FCC) Certification course available through Child and Youth Services.

7. Children in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and lower who are left overnight must be under the on-site supervision of a competent adult. Parents who leave children overnight in the care of others will provide specific instructions to the care provider. These instructions must include where to reach parents in case of an emergency and a signed medical power of attorney, available from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

8. When youth in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade are left alone overnight, a competent adult must be available for emergencies and must have a medical power of attorney for the children. Parents should be accessible by telephone. Service Members must notify their commander or First Sergeant when situations necessitate an appropriately aged youth/child being left alone for more than two consecutive nights.

9. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the control of minors at all times. Individuals seeking further clarification concerning the installation's child supervision policy may contact the Directorate of Emergency Services at (706) 791-4397.

10. Failure to supervise or safeguard children or to comply with this policy may result in a finding of neglect or a violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (Failure to Obey an Order or Regulation). All allegations of child neglect or abuse will be reported to the Family Advocacy Program – Clinical by calling (706) 787-3656

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during duty hours or after-hours at (706) 305-7104 and by contacting the local 24/7 Georgia Child Abuse and Neglect reporting hotline at (855) 422-4453.

11. The point of contact for this policy memorandum is Diana Sellers, the Family Advocacy Program Manager at: (706) 791-5891.



ANTHONY J. KAZOR  
COL, CM  
Commanding

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