



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON FORT HAMILTON
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AMIM-HAG-ZA

Policy Letter 24

12 July 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Child Supervision Policy for U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Hamilton, NY

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP), 30 Oct 07, Rapid Action Revision (RAR) 13 September 2011.
- b. AR 608-75, Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), 27 January 2017.
- c. AR 608-10, Child Development Services, 11 May 2017.
- d. Fort Hamilton Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, 15 June 2020.

2. Purpose. This policy establishes the minimum acceptable standards for the supervision of children while on or within Fort Hamilton.

3. Applicability. This policy applies to all Service Members, Family Members, Residents, and sponsored individuals within U.S. Army Garrison - Fort Hamilton (USAG-FH). This policy supersedes the Fort Hamilton curfew policy.

4. Parents are ultimately responsible for the welfare and actions of their children. Parents must use sound judgment and consider the physical, emotional, and psychological maturity of their children when determining the level of supervision their children require. Failure to exercise those parental responsibilities may constitute child neglect.

5. Children who meet the criteria for the EFMP (as defined by AR 608-75) require special levels of supervision. These guidelines for supervision and babysitting are to be modified in accordance with their special needs. Parents must consult with their primary care physician to determine the appropriate level of supervision. Parents should provide more restrictive supervision than authorized by the minimum acceptable standards of self-management and responsibility allowed in this policy for children with special needs.

6. Primary child supervision requirements. These requirements are based on a child's age, not the child's grade in school.

a. Children less than 10 years old cannot be left unsupervised at bus stops, public facilities, residences, in vehicles or recreational areas, and cannot walk to and from the bus stops alone.

b. Children 10 years or older may walk to and from school unaccompanied, but are expected to follow the buddy system and walk with a friend or in a group.

c. Children 10-11 years old may be left alone (self-monitored care) in their residential unit or in authorized areas on post for up to four (4) hours in a 24-hour period, but not overnight. This policy defines overnight as 2200-0500 (10 PM-5 AM) daily. Authorized areas on post include Taylor Field, playgrounds, the Bluff, and other non-administrative facilities and areas.

d. Children 12-13 years old may be left alone (self-monitored care) in their residential unit or in authorized areas on post up to six (6) hours in a 24-hour period, but not overnight. This policy defines overnight as 2200-0500 (10 PM-5 AM) daily. Authorized areas on post include Taylor Field, playgrounds, the Bluff, and other non-administrative facilities and areas.

e. Children 14-15 years old may be left alone (self-monitored care) in their residential unit or in authorized areas on post up to nine (9) hours in a 24-hour period, but not overnight. This policy defines overnight as 2200-0500 (10 PM-5 AM) daily. Authorized areas on post include Taylor Field, playgrounds, the Bluff, and other non-administrative facilities and areas.

f. Children 16 years old or older may be left alone (self-monitored care) in their residential unit or in authorized areas on post for up to 48 hours. Minors will have telephone access to an adult in case of an emergency.

g. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied and supervised at poolside at all times by an adult age 18 or older.

h. Children age 10 or older may shop alone in AAFES facilities.

7. Babysitting.

a. It is highly recommended that any child or youth babysitting, walking children to and from the bus stop, and/or supervising children at a bus stop take the Babysitting workshop offered by Child, Youth, and School (CYS) Services. It is also highly recommended that the child or youth take the First Aid (FA) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training.

(1) CYS offers babysitting and FA/CPR training. Call Fort Hamilton CYS at (718) 630-4805 for additional information. Children can take the training at age 12 and be placed on the CYS Services Sitters Referral list at age 13.

(2) Children must be 13 years old or older, CYS babysitting trained, and FA/CPR trained to be registered on the CYS Services Sitters Referral List. To remain on the CYS Services Sitters Referral List, children 13 years and older must maintain their FA/CPR training by attending a refresher FA/CPR training annually.

b. Children less than 12 years old may not babysit their siblings or any other children.

c. Children 12-13 years old may babysit their siblings or children other than siblings (age two years old and above) for up to six (6) hours if they have ready access to adult supervision but not overnight. This policy defines overnight as 2200-0500 (10 PM-5 AM) daily. They can also walk their siblings or children other than siblings to and from school or bus stops and supervise those children while at the bus stops.

d. Children 14-17 years old may babysit their siblings or children other than siblings for up to eight (8) hours if they have ready access to adult supervision but not overnight. This policy defines overnight as 2200-0500 (10 PM-5 AM) daily. They can also walk their siblings or children other than siblings to and from school or bus stops and supervise those children while at the bus stops.

8. The USAG-FH curfew policy follows:

a. Children 13 years of age and younger will be inside their own or someone else's Residential Unit (RU) between 2100 (9 PM) and 0600 (6 AM) unless they are under the direct supervision of a parent, guardian, or Family Member 18 years of age or older.

b. Children 14-17 years of age will be inside their own or someone else's RU between 2200 (10 PM) and 0500 (5 AM) unless they are under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or Family Member 18 years of age or older.

c. Exceptions to the above curfew are: returning home from a community facility, an installation activity, a Youth Center Program, a supervised CYS Activity, or paid employment.

9. Families with children of different ages living in the same home must arrange appropriate care for all children. It is the primary job of the parents and not of the eldest child to ensure supervision of younger children. The age of the youngest child in the home will determine the appropriate level of supervision required.

10. Since each child is unique, every parent, guardian, or designated adult caregiver must exercise reasonable judgment before leaving a child unsupervised. Important variables to consider are as follows:

- a. Maturity of the child.
- b. Child's knowledge of and ability to apply emergency procedures.
- c. Presence of any physically or emotionally disabling conditions.
- d. Accessibility to parents or another designated informed adult.
- e. Number and ages of other children present without direct supervision.
- f. Age-appropriate responsibilities given to the child.

NOTE: Parents of children with an identified diagnosis such as, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), behavioral problem, developmentally delayed, impulsivity, psychiatric problem, or other physically or emotionally disabling conditions that could inhibit their children's ability to make appropriate choices should consider more restrictive guidelines for those children than the minimal degree of self-management and responsibility required in this policy.

11. Parents or a designated appropriate caregiver must be present for any child participating at CYS Services activities.

12. Safety.

a. Parents will ensure their children observe all safety rules when operating a bicycle, toy vehicles (scooters, skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates, sleds, and other non-motorized toy vehicles), or motorized bicycle, scooter and skateboards. See additional safety requirements in FH Reg. 190-5, paragraph 5-5 (Operation of Bicycles), paragraph 5-6 (Operation of Toy Vehicles), paragraph 5-7 (Operation of Motorized Bicycles, Scooters and Skateboards).

(1) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). At a minimum, all individuals (to include all children) operating a bicycle, toy vehicle, or motorized bicycle / scooter / skateboard will wear a helmet at all times. Additionally, all persons operating a bicycle, toy vehicle, or motorized bicycle / scooter / skateboard will wear a reflective vest and/or reflective clothing during times of low visibility and in hours of darkness.

(2) Children operating skates, skateboards, or rollerblades are highly encouraged to wear knee pads and wrist guards.

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b. When playing outside, children must come to a complete stop and look in all directions to ensure the street is safe before proceeding into an intersection.

c. Do not allow children to play on the big green boxes located outside the apartment buildings. The green box contains about 25,000 watts of electricity.

d. For additional safety information to keep your children safe on the installation, contact the Installation Safety Officer at (718) 630-4232.

13. Within the Fort Hamilton Army community, any person leaving children unsupervised in violation of the requirements of this policy will be referred to the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES). Reports of possible neglect within the Fort Hamilton community will be addressed to the DES at (718) 630-4456/4357 or to the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) at (718) 630-4754. Parents will comply with all State of New York and Federal laws pertaining to child safety and well-being.

14. This policy memorandum supersedes all other Child Supervision Policies in writing.

15. Point of Contact: Tiffany Esparza, LCSW, FAP Manager (718) 630-4457, tiffany.m.esparza.civ@army.mil.



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