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U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
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AMIM-MLG-ZA

8 February 2023

U.S. ARMY GARRISON WEST POINT POLICY MEMORANDUM #8

SUBJECT: Supervision and Curfew for Minor Children at West Point

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for supervision of minor children and establish a curfew at West Point, New York.

2. **REFERENCES:**

a. Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6060.02, Child Development Programs, dated 5 August 2014.

b. Army Regulation (AR) 608-18, Family Advocacy Program, dated 30 October 2007, Rapid Action Revision (RAR), dated 13 September 2011.

3. **APPLICABILITY:** This policy applies to all personnel assigned to West Point Military Reservation (WPMR), United States Army Garrison West Point (USAG WP), and Family members and tenant activities.

4. **BACKGROUND:** While realizing that safeguarding children is primarily a parental responsibility, the Department of Defense (DoD) requires each Installation to develop guidance that addresses the ages and circumstances by which a child under 13 years of age can be left at home alone without adult supervision, also known as a "home alone policy" or "self-care policy." This guidance should be a minimum basic standard and not a parents' sole determining factor as to their child's ability to remain at home safely. The ages specified are provided as a guide for parents to use to make an informed choice. Curfew fosters good order and discipline on the Installation.

5. **POLICY:** The West Point guidelines for the supervision of minor children are based on the child's age. Table 1 explains the level of supervision required for children.

a. Children 9 years of age and younger require supervision at all times.

b. Children 10 years of age are in a transitional period and may gradually begin to exercise self-care beginning with short periods of time, provided the parent/guardian believes the 10 year old is ready to exercise self care. While exercising self-care for any length of time during this transitional period, children are required to have ready access to an adult as arranged by their parent/guardian prior to leaving the 10 year old alone.

Education by the parent/guardian on self-care and personal safety is highly recommended prior to leaving the 10 year old alone for the first time and then at regular intervals during the transitional period.

c. Children ages 11-13 years old may be left home alone with ready access to adult supervision. Children this age may also babysit younger siblings and walk younger siblings to/from West Point Elementary and/or Middle School based on the decision by the parent(s)/guardian(s). Completion of a babysitting course is highly recommended. Children in the fifth grade at the School Age Center (SAC) may not sign themselves out of the program to walk home. An exception to policy would need to be in place between the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the SAC to allow a fifth grader to sign him/herself out of the SAC to walk home.

d. Children 13 years old and older may baby-sit children other than siblings. A babysitting course is highly recommended.

e. Children enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program require supervision in accordance with their special needs regardless of age.

f. In all situations, interpretation of this policy should be made in favor of the child's safety and well-being.

g. Table 2 provides conversion of age and grade for home schooled children.

6. CURFEW:

a. All Family members and/or sponsored guests under the 18 years of age are required to obey the curfew. All Family members/guests under the age of 18 years old are required to be in quarters between 2230 and 0500 Sundays through Thursdays and 2330 and 0500 on Fridays, Saturdays, Holidays and non-school nights unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

b. All dependent children and/or Family Members ages 10-17 years of age must have their military issued dependent ID card in their possession at all times unless they are under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or Family member 18 years of age or older.

c. Exceptions for Family members/sponsored guests under the age of 18 are:

(1) When the individual has prior permission of the parent(s) or guardian(s) to attend an official school, recreational, religious or other organized activity supervised by responsible adults and sponsored by a school, recreation/youth services event, worship or other organization on or off the Installation.

(2) When the individual is returning home from a job or volunteer activity on or off the Installation. It is highly recommended that the individual have proof of employment or verification of volunteer activity if returning home during curfew hours.

d. Family members and sponsored guests under the age of 18 found in violation of the curfew will be taken to their quarters by the Military Police (MP) and turned over to their sponsor. If the sponsor declines to accept responsibility for the guest, the guest will be transported to the MP Station and their parent or guardian will be called to pick them up.

e. First time curfew offenders will be issued a Juvenile Misconduct Letter (JML), an MP report will be generated and the sponsor will be issued a written warning citation. Second time offenders will be taken to the MP Station where a second JML will be issued and the sponsor will be issued a citation. The sponsor will be notified and required to pick and escort the Family member or sponsored guest back to their quarters. Subsequent curfew violations will result in the individual being referred to the Installation Juvenile Offender Court in accordance with Garrison Policy Letter #15. Service members who violate this policy could be subject to adverse administrative action, non-judicial punishment or punishment under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The Garrison Commander (GC) may bar repeat offenders from entering the Installation which would affect eligibility to reside in on-post quarters.

f. The Deputy to the Garrison Commander will serve as the Installation Juvenile Offender Court Authority.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. Military and DoD sponsors are responsible at all times for the supervision, health, safety and welfare of their Family members and guests on the Installation. Deliberate failure to provide for adequate and reasonable care of minor children may result in adverse consequences for the sponsor. These consequences may include though are not limited to criminal prosecution, civil liability and/or termination of housing privileges on the Installation.

b. This Policy Memorandum does not purport to limit or define the wide variety of circumstances that Families experience.

c. Child & Youth Services (CYS) maintains a list of registered babysitters who are 13 years old and older who have completed a babysitting course.

d. Information on the babysitting course is available through CYS.

e. Every member of the West Point community is responsible for maintain the highest possible safety standards along with good order and discipline. Every person should report information regarding known or suspected child abuse or child neglect to

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the West Point Reporting Point of Contact (RPOC), the MP Desk, at (845) 938-3333 and the New York State Child Abuse Hotline, at 1-800-342-3720.

8. PROPONENT: Army Community Service is the proponent for this policy.

Encl

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DISTRIBUTION:
Electronic

Table 1 - WPMR Child Supervision Guidelines

Age of Child	Child Characteristics	May be left alone at home	May be left alone overnight	May be left outside unattended (playing)	May be left alone in a vehicle	May baby-sit siblings	May baby-sit others (besides siblings)
Newborn to age 4	Requires close supervision at all times	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Ages 5-9 years old	Children begin to explore their environment with supervision	NO	NO	At playground (<i>within eye sight and audio distance of designated adult supervision</i>). Kindergartners may not walk to and from school or other supervised activities alone. First through fifth graders may walk to and from school and other supervised activities alone.	NO	NO	NO
Age 10 years old-continue to require supervision	This is a transitional time for this age. They are accepting more responsibility, require intermittent supervision.	For UP TO 3 hours. Must have access to indirect supervision (neighbor, checking in with parents by phone, etc.)	NO	YES, with ready access to adult supervision.	Not more than 15 minutes and the keys MUST be removed.	NO	NO
Ages 11-13, continue to need intermittent contact with adult supervision	Children are approaching the adolescent years when there is a need for increased responsibility; amount and type should be carefully evaluated.	For UP TO 6 hours, with ready access to adult supervision; intermittent contact with an adult supervisor.	NO	YES	YES	YES- babysitting course is highly recommended.	A 13 year old may babysit others besides siblings. A babysitting course is highly recommended.

Age of Child	Child Characteristics	May Be Left at Home Alone	May Be Left Alone Overnight	May Be Left Outside Unattended (playing)	May Be Left Alone in a Vehicle	May Baby-Sit Siblings	May Baby-Sit Others (besides siblings)
Ages 14-15: parents are responsible for their children and their actions	Children continue to need to know how to access parents and guidance for emergency situations.	YES; parents are responsible for their children and their actions.	NO	YES	YES	YES- babysitting course is highly recommended.	YES- babysitting course is highly recommended.
Ages 16-18	Parents responsible for their children as long as Family member status is maintained.	YES	YES (see Note 1).	YES	YES	YES- babysitting course is highly recommended.	YES- babysitting course is highly recommended.

Note 1: Indirect supervision plans include checking in with a neighbor, emergency phone numbers of parents and emergency medical power of attorney (if necessary).

Table 2 - Conversion from Age to Grade for Home Schooled Children

AGE	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17/18
GRADE	Kindergarten	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th