

BUTLER COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

POLICY NO.: 4.33	SUBJECT: Prudent Parent Standard
OAC: 5101:2-5-33, 5101:2-7-11	EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/16
ORC: 5103.162, ORC 4519.44	REVISION DATE: 12/16
	REVIEW DATE: 12/16

PURPOSE: To establish a standard of normalcy for a child who is in the custody of BCCS. It attempts to expand the opportunities for youth in foster care to participate in socially acceptable, age appropriate extracurricular activities in order to support the health development of youth in care thorough implementing a "reasonable and prudent parent standard for decision-making for foster parent(s) or designee.

POLICY:

The Prudent Parent Standard allows foster parent(s) to give their foster child(ren) permission to do daily, age appropriate activities that promote cognitive, emotional and behavioral growth, while helping foster children make the transition to adulthood by providing necessary life skills as they seek more independence.

PROCEDURE:

1. Foster parent(s)/designee must attend training that includes the knowledge and skills related to the reasonable and prudent parent standard.
2. Foster parent(s) shall consider the following when determining whether to permit a child to participate in an activity:
 - The child's age, maturity, and developmental level to maintain overall health and safety of the child;
 - Potential risk factors and appropriateness of the activity;
 - The best interest of the child based on the foster parent's/designee knowledge of the child;
 - The importance of encouraging the child's emotional and developmental growth;
 - The importance of providing the child with the most family-like living experience possible and;
 - The behavioral history of the child and the child's ability to safely participate in the proposed activity.
3. Foster parent(s) must have all information regarding the child to determine what is in their best interest including any situation that may cause the child harm developmentally, emotionally, or mentally.

4. Foster parent(s) must take into consideration religious/cultural beliefs of the child.
5. Foster parent(s) must follow court orders and judgements which may impact those decisions.
6. Any decision made for child(ren) cannot override a court order or scheduled visitation with parents unless otherwise approved by the Agency.
7. Foster parents are not liable for harm to the child as a result of the event/activity approved by them as long as the foster parent(s)/designee acted in accordance with the reasonable and prudent standards.

APPROVED ACTIVITIES

1. Allows the foster parent(s)/designee to make decisions regarding whether a child may engage in sports, field trips, and overnight activities.
 - Foster parent(s) shall encourage a foster child to participate in school activities as appropriate to the child's age and functioning level
 - Foster parent(s) shall ensure that any person transporting the child is licensed to drive that class of vehicle.
 - Foster parent(s) shall ensure that the vehicle has proper restraints.
2. Allows foster parent(s)/designee to sign permission slips and arrange for transportation for the child to and from social activities by a licensed driver.
 - Foster parent(s) shall encourage a foster child to participate in school activities as appropriate to the child's age and functioning level
 - Foster parent(s) shall ensure that any person transporting the child is licensed to drive that class of vehicle.
 - Foster parent(s) shall ensure that the vehicle has proper restraints.
3. Allows foster parent(s) to use a babysitter on occasion to care for a child(ren) for less than 24 hours without background checks. (excluding daily childcare)
4. Allows out of state travel with foster parent(s), friends, and social activities.
 - Foster parent(s) need to request travel authorization one week prior to travel.
 - If permission is given, the foster parent(s) shall provide the following information: where the family is staying and how they can be reached. The foster parent(s) shall make up missed visits with the biological parents before or after the vacation.
5. Allows foster child(ren) to experience circumstances without direct supervision such as trips to the mall or sporting events.

- The foster parent(s) shall have prior written approval by the agency specifying the activities the foster child(ren) may be left unattended and if so , for what period of time.
6. Allows foster child(ren) to obtain employment.
 7. Allows foster child(ren) to obtain cell phones.
 - The foster parent(s) help to monitor the use and ensure they are using it in a safe manner.
 - Loss of privileges are expected if there are issues surrounding the usage; however, an opportunity for second chances and learning are an expectation.
 8. Allows foster child(ren) to have saving and checking accounts.
 9. Allows foster child(ren) to have a reasonable curfew.
 - The foster parent(s) need to discuss curfew options with the caseworker and foster child.
 - The foster parent(s) and foster child shall follow the city/township guidelines regarding curfews.
 10. Allows the foster child(ren) to engage in overnight stays with friends or foster family members.
 - The foster parent(s) will speak with an adult at the home where there child(ren) will be staying to confirm there will be adult supervision.
 - It is reasonable to allow the child(ren) to spend 1-2 consecutive nights with friends or foster family members.
 - It is expected that the caseworker will be notified about the overnight stay in order to log the child(ren) whereabouts in SACWIS.
 11. Allows the foster child(ren) to date.
 - The foster parent(s) will meet the individual prior to the actual outing.
 - The foster parent(s) shall implement a curfew.
 - If applicable, Foster parent(s) shall ensure that any person transporting the child is licensed to drive that class of vehicle. Foster parent(s) shall ensure that the vehicle has proper restraints.
 12. Allows the foster child(ren) to have social media platforms and be featured in social media platforms.
 - The foster parent(s) help to monitor the use and ensure they are using it in a safe manner.
 - Loss of privileges are expected if there are issues surrounding the usage; however, an opportunity for second chances and learning are an expectation.

13. Allows foster child(ren) to ride motorized vehicles such as motorcycles and ATVs.

- The foster parent(s) shall ensure that the foster child(ren) is wearing an approved helmet and appropriate safety gear.
- The foster parent(s) shall supervise the use and ensure they are using it in a safe manner.
- Foster children under the age of sixteen (16) must have a licensed driver who is 18 years of age or older present.

14. Allows foster child(ren) to participate in activities with weapons such as hunting and target shooting.

- The foster parent(s) shall ensure that the foster child(ren) is wearing appropriate safety gear.
- The foster parent(s) shall supervise the use and ensure they are using it in a safe manner.

15. Allows foster child(ren) to participate in water sports.

- The foster parent(s) shall ensure that the foster child(ren) is wearing appropriate safety gear.
- The foster parent(s) shall supervise and ensure they are acting in a safe manner.

12-21-16

Approval Date:



William Morrison, Director