

Caregiver Guideline for Reasonable and Prudent Parenting (RPPS)

The RPPS standard characterized is by **careful and sensible** parental decisions that **maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child** while at the same time **encouraging the emotional and developmental growth** of the child, that a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the State to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities. **Any decisions made must not conflict with any applicable State law, court order, DFS policies (including Policy 2.1.4.4) or DFS case plan.**

Activity Category	Caregiver may make a reasonable and prudent parenting decision without obtaining prior approval from DFS	Caregiver shall obtain prior approval from DFS per policy
Travel	In-State travel where child will be gone no more than two nights (provide 24 hour prior notification).	In-state travel where child will be gone more than two nights AND any out-of-state travel.
Family Recreation	Movies, community events, hiking, camping, swimming, biking, amusement park rides, etc.	Any overnight event where child will be gone more than two nights.
Social/ Extracurricular	Camps, field trips, school related activities, youth organizations, sports, social activities with peers, community activities/events, cell phone use, and social media.	Any overnight event where child will be gone more than two nights.
Sleep Over/ Alternate Care	May approve for up to two nights (notify caseworker).	Any overnight event where child will be gone more than two nights.
Leaving Youth Unsupervised	May approve youth to be unsupervised for reasonable amounts of time based on age, maturity level, current behavior, history, and ability.	Youth under age 10 years of age may not be left unsupervised.
Motorized Activities		Children operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle, moped, ATV, snow machine, watercraft or other recreational vehicle. Must follow all applicable laws, safety requirements and manufacturers' warnings.
Driving	May authorize youth to take drivers education or teach youth to drive.	DFS Manager shall decide whether or not to approve youth obtaining a driver's license (if parent is unavailable).
Employment/ Babysitting	In accordance with federal and State employment laws. Babysitting based on child's maturity level and ability to handle responsibility.	Entering the military.
Religious Participation		Any church services, activities and/or participation in religious ceremonies, such as baptism or confirmations. This requires parent's written permission and can not be in conflict with the child's or parent's beliefs.
Medication	Caregivers may administer Over-the-counter medication according to the manufacturer's label.	Prescription medication shall only be administered under the order of a physician, a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant. Immunizations require parent or DFS (if parent is unavailable) approval.
Appearance	Clothing, maintenance haircuts (standard trim that does not change the child's appearance), unless the child's hairstyle has cultural significance for the child and/or child's parents. Temporary hair color that washes out.	Haircuts that change child's appearance, a baby's first haircut, permanent hair color, piercings, tattoos require parent or DFS (if parent is unavailable) approval.
Weapons/ Firearms/ Archery Equipment & Hunting		Requires parent or DFS (if parent is unavailable) approval and follow DFS policy.