

AS OF 1 MAY 04

6-1. SPONSORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. THE SECTION OUTLINES POLICY FOR THE CARE AND CONTROL OF CHILDREN, SUPERIVISON OF CHILDREN TO INCLUDE DURING PARENTAL DUTY DAY, SCHOOL AND SUMMER BREAKS, CURFEW, AND REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR SUSPECTED CHILD NEGLECT.

1. Care and Control of Children.

- a. Parents are responsible for the conduct as well as the safety of their children. Evidence of child abuse or neglect may be grounds for termination of quarters.
- b. Children will not play, roller skate, etc., in the streets. Ball games (baseball, football, etc.) will be played only on authorized ball fields or play areas.
- c. Child supervision is necessary for the safety, protection, care, and management of children in our community. Child supervision is the responsibility of the parent. Parents must know where their children are and what they are doing at all times. Parents should continually evaluate their child's level of maturity and determine the degree of supervision that best meets the needs of their child. Parents are accountable for their decisions regarding child supervision and any incidents of misconduct by children under their care.

2. Definitions. The following definitions apply:

- a. "Parent" means the mother or father of a child related by blood, marriage (stepparent), adoption, or a legal guardian, or any person charged with parental rights, duties and responsibilities.
- b. "Child" means the unmarried child, whether a biological, adopted, foster, stepchild, or ward of a military member or a civilian, for whom treatment is authorized in a medical facility of the military services, who is under 18 years of age or incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapability.
- c. "Qualified baby-sitter" means a person who has attained the age of 13 years and successfully completed the Red Cross Baby-sitting Course or similar course whose curriculum has been approved by Child Youth Services (CYS). A qualified baby-sitter may also be a sibling, at least 13 years of age, who resides within the household of the child. While siblings 13 years of age are not required to be Red Cross trained to act as a babysitter, it is strongly encouraged. Qualified baby-sitters under the age of 16 are limited to performing the role of baby-sitter for not more than 8 hours per day.
- d. "Qualified Child Care Provider" means a person who must be 18 years of age, reside in government housing, and be provisionally or fully certified as a Family Child Care Provider.
- e. "Physical presence" means the parent, adult, qualified child-care provider or qualified baby-sitter in the home with the child or within the direct sight and hearing of the child.

f. "Supervision" means a planned, consistent way to provide ongoing care for children. Supervision requires the parents, guardian, qualified child-care provider or qualified baby-sitter to know where the child is at all times, and vice-versa. Part of supervision requires children or caregivers to be able to contact the parent(s) or other qualified adult at all times. When the parent is not physically present in the home, information on means to contact the parent or other responsible adult, to include emergency information should be written and readily accessible, preferably posted close to the telephone.

g. "Unsupervised" means a child is not being directly supervised.

h. "Adult" means a mentally and physically competent individual who is 18 years of age or older.

i. "Parental Duty Day" is defined as the period of time where parents are working or their normal duty day (0600-1800). A normal duty week is Mon-Fri, however some parents duty day may be shift hours, or weekends.

j. "Self-Care" means that the child is of an age to be left alone to care for him or herself. This is dependent upon the maturity of the child and is determined by the parent.

k. "Monitored Care" is defined as a child in self-care with an adult monitoring the child throughout the period of time he/she is home alone.

3. Out of School Child Supervision Criteria During Parental Duty Day:

a. Army personnel (and other service personnel assigned to and/or residing on an Army Installation) who have dependent elementary school children in grades K-6 have a responsibility to ensure that their children are appropriately supervised during parental duty hours 0600-1800.

b. Kindergarten and elementary school children in grades K-6 (ages 6-12) will not be in self-care or home alone on a regular basis during weekday, school-out, vacation and/or summer out of school time. The direct supervision requirement is based on the local elementary school grade configuration, not the age of the child. Before and After School Programs and camps are offered through Child and Youth Services School Age Services Program.

c. **ALL KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN MUST BE ESCORTED AND SUPERVISED BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT, OR QUALIFIED BABY-SITTER REGARDLESS OF THEIR AGE.** Children in grades 1-6 may walk to and from the School Age Services Program with written parent permission.

4. Supervision of Children during parental non-duty day. The following conduct is hereby prohibited:

a. Leaving a child, five years of age or younger, outside the physical presence of a parent, guardian, qualified child-care provider or a qualified baby-sitter at any time or place.

b. Leaving a child 6 through 8 years of age, unsupervised at any time or place, except while traveling to and from school or a Youth Services facility or program.

c. Leaving a child, 9 through 12 years of age, unsupervised at any time or place for more than two hours on a regular basis. This 2 hours time period includes traveling to and from school or a Youth Services facility or program. A child in this age group should not be left unsupervised unless he or she is determined to be mature by the parent. ■

d. Leaving a child, 13 through 14 years of age unsupervised at any time or place for more than eight hours, unless arrangements are made with a friend or relative who is an adult to check on their behavior and whereabouts in person within that 8 hour period. This eight-hour period may not include any time between the hours of midnight (2400) and 6 a.m. (0600). A child in this age group should not be left unsupervised unless he or she is determined to be mature by the parent.

e. Leaving a child, 15 through 17 years of age, at any time or place for more than 12 hours, unless arrangements are made with a friend or relative who is an adult to check on their behavior and whereabouts in person within that 12 hour period.

f. Parents are accountable for their decisions regarding child supervision and any incident of misconduct by children under their care.

5. Curfew. The following curfew applies to children who are physically present on Fort Stewart or Hunter AAF.

a. Children 12 years of age or younger, shall be inside their home or someone else's quarters between 2100 and 0600; unless, they are under the supervision of an adult (18 years of age or older).

b. Children who are 13 years or more of age, but less than 15 years of age, shall be inside their home or someone else's quarters between 2200 and 0600 unless they are under the supervision of an adult (18 years of age or older), are returning home directly from a community or school-organized function or facility, a Youth Services program, traveling to or from verifiable employment, or responding to a bona fide emergency.

c. Children who are 15 years of age, but less than 18 years of age, shall be inside their home or someone else's quarters between 2400 and 0600 unless they are under the supervision of an adult (18 years of age or older), are returning home directly from a community or school-organized function or facility, a Youth Services program, traveling to or from verifiable employment, or responding to a bona fide emergency.

d. The child's parent(s) or guardians are responsible for compliance with this curfew. If the child is in the company of an adult other than a parent during the period of curfew, the parent must have authorized the adult in advance to supervise and be responsible for the child. This is to prevent a young adult not much older than the child from claiming that the child is under his or her supervision without the parent(s)' express knowledge and approval.

6. Suspected Child Neglect Reporting Procedures:

a. Report all suspected incidents of child neglect to the Military Police (MP) at 767-2822 (Fort Stewart) , 352-6133 (Hunter AAF)

b. The proponent for this policy is the Directorate of Community Activities and Services. Point of contact is the Family Advocacy Program Manager at telephone number 767-5058/5059.

7. This policy is punitive. Violation is punishable as a failure to obey a general order under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), or other appropriate provisions of the UCMJ, or for civilians (family member dependent) State of Georgia Criminal Code. Additionally, failure to comply can result in referral to the Case Review Committee, formerly known as the Family Advocacy Case Management Team, and/or the Juvenile Disciplinary Control Board. A violation may result in termination of the privilege of occupying government or leased quarters and a mandate to participate in parenting classes.