

Normalcy Checklist

Normalcy: children participating in age-appropriate extracurricular enrichment and social activities.

What is the law?

Child are able to participate in activities, with consideration for

- Age, Maturity, and developmental Level
- Risks of the Activity
- Best interest of the child
- Importance of the child's emotional and developmental growth
- Importance of most family-like living experiences
- Behavioral history of the child, and their ability to safely participate

Caregivers are not liable for harm caused to a child during normal activities, given that the decision for them to participate was reasonable and prudent.

Remove Participation Barriers by Ensuring:

- Family Services does not require prior approval for a child to participate in an activity
- There is an identified caregiver making normalcy decisions
- Normalcy decisions must not conflict with pre-existing court orders
- Policies and practices of all approved DFS caregivers and Foster Care Agencies are consistent with P.L. 113-183
- Caregiver decisions remain consistent with RPPS

Children Shall be given permission and encouragement to:

- Obtain Employment
- Have contact with Family members as discussed with NIA/Permanency Specialist
- Have access to phone usage
- Have reasonable curfews
- Travel with other youth or adults
- Have their picture taken for publication in the yearbook or school newspaper
- Receive public recognition for accomplishments
- participant in school or after-school organizations or clubs
- Participate in Community Events

Children must be provided information regarding:

- Drug and Alcohol use and abuse
- Teen sexuality issues
- Runaway prevention
- Health Services
- Community involvement
- Knowledge of available resources
- Identifying legal issues
- Understanding their legal rights
- Accessing specific legal advice

Disabled Youth shall be provided with an equal opportunity to participate in activities.

Common Normal Activities for Children/Youth:

Social Media

- Caregivers should use RPPS to decide if and to what degree a child/youth is allowed to participate in social media.

Driving

- Caregivers and permanency specialists should work in partnership to assist the child in finding a driver's education program.
- Support the youth's efforts to learn to drive, and obtain and learner's permit/driver's license.

Overnight/Planned Outings

- Caregivers should use RPPS to determine if it is a safe and appropriate activity.
- Background screening is not necessary for a child to participate in normal school or community activities and outings (Such as school field trips, dating, scout campouts and activities with friends, families, school and church groups).

Vacations

- Caregivers may take a child/youth on vacations
- Caregivers will follow the travel guidelines outlines on the Placement Custody Notification Letter.

Babysitting

- Babysitters can be 14+ (14-15 must having babysitting course)
- Caregivers must ensure that:
- The babysitter is suitable for the age, developmental level, and behaviors of the child
- Babysitters need to understand how to handle emergencies, and have phone numbers for NIA/Permanency Worker, Physician, etc.
- Babysitters understand the discipline and confidentiality policies.
- Babysitting does not have to be in a licensed setting.

Allowance

- Children/Youth must receive allowance per NAC 424.500
- Allowance cannot be withheld as a form of discipline
- Additional amounts may be given as a reward
- Providing toys or other tangible items in lieu of money is not permitted
- Toiletries are to be provided separately from allowance.

Reasonable Prudent Parenting Standard:

The standard is characterized by careful, nurturing and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety and best interest of a child, while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child through participation in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities.