

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.*

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| Activity Category | GREEN-RPPS APPLIES—Caregiver may make a reasonable and prudent parenting decision without consulting in advance with the agency. | RED—RPPS DOES NOT APPLY. Caregiver must contact the agency for approval / consultation. |
| Family Recreation | Movies, Community Events, Hiking, Camping, Swimming | Any overnight event that will exceed to two nights. |
| Social/Extracurricular | Camps, field trips, school related activities, church activities, youth organizations, sports, social activities with peers. | Any overnight event that will exceed to two nights. |
| Overnights | Ok for up to two nights | Any overnight event that will exceed to two nights. |
| Leaving Youth Unsupervised | May approve youth age 14 years and older to be unsupervised for reasonable amounts of time. Unsupervised time should be decided based on age, current behavior, history, and ability. | Youth under age 14 years of age may not be left unsupervised. |
| Motorized Activities | Must follow the DFCS policy on motor vehicle and bicycle safety. | DFCS and CPAs shall ensure all approved caregivers comply with the following safety guidelines regarding motor vehicles: a) Caregivers are required to transport every child under eight years of age in a federally approved child safety seat that is |

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| | | <p>used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Caregivers are required to transport children 12 years and under in the rear seat of the vehicle, with seat belts buckled up to protect young children from air bag injuries. c) Caregivers are prohibited from allowing children and youth under the age of 18 to ride in the bed of a pickup truck. The County Director/Designee may provide waivers when children wish to participate in parades, hayrides, and similar events. d) Prior to allowing a child to operate a motor vehicle, caregivers must contact the child's SSCM and comply with all agency policy regarding the driving of motor vehicles by youth in placement. e) All children in care, regardless of age, must be individually secured (one child to a seat belt) by an appropriately fitting seat belt when being transported in a motorized vehicle. f) Caregivers must never leave children under the age of 12 years or children who are medically, emotionally, psychologically, or behaviorally challenged unattended in motor vehicles. g) Caregivers must provide a properly fitted and securely fastened safety helmet for any child who is operating a bicycle or riding as a passenger on a bicycle on a road, bicycle path, or sidewalk. |

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| | | h) Helmets are required for children when operating or riding as a passenger on other types of vehicles (excluding an automobile), such as all-terrain vehicles, motorbikes, small motor craft, etc. |
| BB Guns , Hunting Rifles | <p>Provide reasonable and prudent supervision of children playing with toys that have the potential to cause in personal injury or injury to others (e.g., BB guns, air guns, sling shots, bows and arrows, etc.). Such toys come with warnings and age restrictions that need to be followed to ensure proper safety precautions are taken.</p> <p>Caregivers may make reasonable and prudent decisions regarding youth’s participation in thrill ride activities such as bungee jumping or roller coasters.</p> | <p>Under limited circumstances, particular children may be allowed to handle firearms. Youth ages 13 years and older who have successfully complied with all applicable hunting license requirements for Georgia, may engage in hunting activities while under the direct supervision of the caregiver or other approved adult. The caregiver/ approved adult is also required to be in compliance with Georgia hunting license requirements. Georgia requires completion of a hunter education course (including safety guidelines) for all persons born after January 1, 1961. The County Director/Designee must give prior approval, taking under consideration the psychological and emotional capacity of the child as well as any developmental or behavioral needs. If parental rights have not been terminated, prior written approval must be obtained from the birth parent.</p> |
| Driving | May authorize youth to take drivers education or teach youth to drive. See ILP Policy Chapter 13.8 | Once licensed, the youth may not operate a vehicle for which they are not covered under the insurance policy. |

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| Youth Employment | May authorize the youth to work based on Georgia’s youth employment law http://www.dol.state.ga.us/pdf/rules/child_labor_laws_and_rules.pdf | |
| Religious Participation | May attend church services if not in conflict with child or parent’s beliefs. | Participation in religious ceremonies such as baptism or confirmations require the approval of the birth parent. |
| All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) | Extra caution must be exercised when allowing a child less than 18 years of age to operate or ride as a passenger on a motorcycle, a motorbike, an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), a high- speed water craft, or other similarly motorized vehicles. These high-speed vehicles can be particularly challenging to operate; therefore, reasonable care and caution should be applied when considering a child’s participation in such activities. | |
| Animal Safety | Children are the primary victims of dog bites. Dogs with which the child is familiar usually inflict such bites. In the absence of substantive dog safety laws in Georgia, caregivers must take reasonable safety precautions when children are around pets. Serious consideration should be given to the type/breed of pets and their history of violence or aggressiveness toward people when assessing safety factors in the foster home. | The agency must discuss any issues or concerns related to any pet (type, size, quantity, etc.) should be thoroughly discussed and documented during the assessment and re-evaluation process. |
| Personal Firearms | Caregivers must never allow children in care to handle any type firearm (see BB Gun/Hunting rifle exception above). | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All firearms in the home must be kept under lock and key and inaccessible to children at all times. As an added safety measure, any commercially available, reliable gun- safety mechanisms (e.g., trigger guard lock.) may also be used. (See Foster Parent Manual for a list of the types of gun safety devices that may be used.) 2. All ammunition should be locked away and stored in a separate location from firearms in the home. |

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Keys to locked storage devices are to be kept in the possession of an adult or reasonably secured from children. |
| Medication | <p>May not make changes to prescribed regiments/doctors' orders.</p> <p>Caregivers may administer over the counter (OTC) medications as appropriate, in consideration of any know allergies and possible interactions with other medications and ensuring that OTC drugs are used as directed.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All medication prescribed to children in foster care shall be administered only as directed by the prescribing physician, administered only by authorized adults, and stored and transported in the original containers. |