

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standards (CW Policy 14.26)

Caregivers shall apply the reasonable and prudent parenting standard (RPPS) when determining whether to allow a child in foster care to participate in particular extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities. This includes assessing and approving the plan of supervision for youth engaging in activities while not under the direct supervision or oversight of the caregiver.

What is RPPS?

The standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain children's health, safety, well-being and best interests while at the same time encouraging their emotional and developmental growth.

Does RPPS apply to group homes?

Yes, group homes must have at least one RPP designee but it is recommended that at least two are designated to ensure that decisions are not delayed due to the RPP's absence. The designated RPP must meet the following requirements:

1. Be in the role of Human Services Professional or higher leadership position.
2. Must be at least 25 years of age or 10 years older than the youth.

How should the RPP be applied?

1. Day-to-day and routine/typical caregiving decisions
2. Permission to participate in school, extracurricular, sports, social / cultural enrichment, field trips and similar activities.

What is not covered by the RPPS?

DFCS, birth parents, and or juvenile court continue to have authority over major decisions that have significant effect on the life of a child in foster care.

How do birth parents factor into RPPS?

RPPS and Partnership Parenting are complementary. Partnership Parenting creates shared parenting relationships between birth and foster parents. It provides foster parents with the opportunity to help birth parents learn by setting a positive parenting example for them to follow.

In fact RPPS works best within the context of Partnership Parenting—that is foster caregivers and birth parents working in partnership to make parenting decisions together to the extent possible.

