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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
EUROPE REGION
UNIT 23103
APO AE 09136-3103

IMEU-MWR-A 13 January 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR Soldiers, Family Members, and Civilian Employees

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Child and Youth Supervision Policy

1. This memorandum supersedes memorandum, IMCOM-Europe, IMEU-MWR-A, 30 September 2015, subject as above.

2. References:

a. AR 608-10, Child Development Services.

b. AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program.

c. Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 134.

3. Definitions:

a. Child: Birth through age 11.

b. Youth: Age 12 through age 17.

c. Adult: Age 18 or older, or a married person under the age of 18.

d. Supervision: The act or process of watching and directing what a person does or how something is done.

e. Appointed guardian: A person appointed by an officially recognized entity to provide direct supervision of a child or youth.

f. Babysitter: A person engaged by parents or a guardian to provide temporary, time-limited supervision and care of a child or youth.

g. Reporting POC: Military police.

4. This memorandum establishes policy under which children and youth, from birth through age 17, may be left alone to care for themselves. This policy is based on a child's age, not its grade in school. Failure to comply with the requirements described in this policy may result in intervention by military or local national authorities or other community agencies, as well as administrative or judicial action.

5. The primary goal of this policy is to promote the safety of children and youth on installations and in Army communities throughout the Army in Europe, including the children of Army personnel assigned or attached to NATO facilities. Parents or legally appointed guardians are responsible for the appropriate supervision, health, safety, well-being, and behavior of children

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in their care, whether physically present or not. Failure to exercise parental responsibilities may constitute neglect.

6. Families with children of different ages living in the same home must arrange appropriate care for all children. It is the primary job of the parent and not of eldest child to ensure supervision of younger children. The age of the youngest child in the home will determine the appropriate level of supervision required.

7. Since each child is unique, every parent, guardian, or designated adult caregiver must exercise reasonable judgment before leaving a child unsupervised. Important variables to consider are as follows:

a. Maturity of the child.

b. Child's knowledge of and ability to apply emergency procedures.

c. Presence of any physically or emotionally disabling conditions.

d. Accessibility to parents or another designated informed adult.

e. Number and ages of other children present without direct supervision.

f. Age-appropriate responsibilities given to the child.

NOTE: Parents of children with an identified attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), behavioral problem, developmental delay, impulsivity, psychiatric problem, or other physically or emotionally disabling condition that could inhibit their children's ability to make appropriate choices should not give those children the degree of self-management and responsibility described in this policy.

8. The enclosure provides guidance on the level of adult supervision needed for children based on the age of a child or youth. Incidents of unsupervised children will be reported to the military police, which is the designated Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Report Point of Contact (RPOC) who will ensure that incidents are investigated in accordance with reference 2b. The FAP RPOC will forward cases of unsupervised children to FAP-Clinical and to the responsible garrison commander for appropriate evaluation and disposition.

NOTE: Children enrolled in DODDS Kindergarten, regardless of their age, must always be accompanied by a parent or designated care giver when walking to and from school or a bus stop and while waiting at a bus stop.

9. The POC is the Army Community Services Branch, military 544-9263.

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MICHAEL D. FORMICA
Director

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ARMY IN EUROPE
CHILD AND YOUTH SUPERVISION GUIDELINES BY AGE

Age of Child	May be Left Alone at Home for < 2 Hours	May be Left Alone at Home for > 2 Hours	May be Left Alone Overnight	May be Left Outside Unattended (To Include Playing)	May be Left in Vehicle Unattended	May Babysit Siblings	May Babysit Others
Newborn through age 4	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Age 5 through age 6*	No	No. At age 6, may walk to and from school.	No	Yes, in playgrounds or yards with immediate access (visual sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision.	No	No	No
Age 7 through age 9	No	No. May walk to and from school.	No	Yes, in playgrounds or yards with immediate access (visual sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision.	Yes, except in hot weather. Keys must be removed and the handbrake applied. Maximum 10 minutes with adult within sight.	No	No
Age 10 through age 11	Yes, with ready access (phone number) to an adult supervisor.	Yes, with ready access (phone number) to an adult supervisor, but no longer than 6 hours.	No	Yes	Yes, provided keys are removed and the handbrake is applied.	Age 10 – No Age 11 – Yes, up to 2 hours.**	Age 10 – No Age 11 – Yes** May babysit only for siblings or close Family friends for up to 2 hours.
Age 12 through age 14	Yes	Yes, with ready access (phone number) to an adult supervisor, but no longer than 6 hours.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes, up to 3 hours maximum.**	Yes**
Age 15 through age 17	Yes	Yes	Yes; **Age 15** with access to adult supervision; sponsor in local area. **Age 16/17** may be left alone not to exceed 5 consecutive days. Parents **must** designate an adult official point of contact that will make daily face-to-face contact.	Yes	Yes	Yes**	Yes**

NOTES: *Children enrolled in DODDS Kindergarten, regardless of their age, must always be accompanied by a parent or designated caregiver when walking to and from school or a bus stop and while waiting at a bus stop.
**Refer to country-specific guidance available at the Army Community Service, Family Advocacy Program. It is highly recommended that youth who wish to babysit (siblings or others) complete the Red Cross Babysitters Course

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