DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BELVOIR
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FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-5928

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

IMBV-MWA

26 June 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR US Army Fort Belvoir Personnel

SUBJECT: Fort Belvoir Policy Memorandum #37, Fort Belvoir Child Supervision Guidelines

1. Reference. AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, 30 October 2007 (RAR 001, 13 September 2011).

2. Purpose. To provide child supervision guidelines for Fort Belvoir.

3. Applicablity. This policy applies to all US Army Garrison Fort Belvoir directorates, organizations assigned, attached, and tenant personnel at Fort Belvoir.

4. Policy.

a. Fort Belvoir follows the Fairfax County Child Supervision Guidelines.

b. Children seven years old and younger will not be left alone for any period of time. This includes leaving children unattended in cars, playgrounds, homes, or yards.

c. Youth 8-10 years old may only be left alone, adult monitored, during daylight and early evening hours for occasional, short periods of time - up to 1 ½ hours - but not on a regular, self-care basis, such as before and after school every day.

d. Youth 11-12 years old may be left in self-care that is adult monitored for up to 3 hours but not at night or in circumstances requiring inappropriate responsibilities.

e. Youth 13-15 years old may be left in self-care that is adult monitored, but not overnight and not in circumstances requiring inappropriate responsibility.

f. Youth 16-17 years old may be left in self-care that is adult monitored for up to 2 consecutive overnight periods but not in circumstances of inappropriate responsibility.

g. Adult monitored is defined as meeting the following conditions:

(1) Youth and parent/caretaker have communicated on house rules and guidelines for acceptable behavior.

(2) Youth and parent/caretaker have communicated on safety/emergency plans, and youth is aware of what to do in case of emergency.

(3) Youth in self-care has knowledge of how to access parent or other responsible adult at all times (including knowing the parent/caretaker's whereabouts and having a telephone number where parent can be reached).

5. Guidelines for selecting a babysitter.

a. Generally, age 13 is the minimum recommended age for a babysitter. In making decisions about who is an acceptable babysitter, consider not only age, but also maturity.

b. The physical environment where the babysitting will take place must be safe.

c. The sitter must possess a level of maturity necessary for applying solid judgment and decision-making skills. No emotional, medical, or behavioral problems may affect the sitter's ability.

d. The length of time, the number of hours, the age and number of children, and the time of day must be consistent with the sitter's age and ability.

e. As the age and level of maturity of the sitter increases, so can the level of responsibility. Responsibilities include performing specialized tasks such as getting children ready for bed, preparing food and taking care of other specific needs.

f. The sitter must know how and when to get help and have a safety plan for emergencies.

6. Other considerations.

a. Is the sitter comfortable around children?

b. Does the sitter possess basic childcare skills?

c. Does the sitter show a responsible attitude?

d. Does the sitter respond to any special medical needs your child may have?

e. Does the sitter have experience with children?

f. Does the sitter know basic first aid and CPR?

g. Has the sitter demonstrated responsible behavior in the past?

h. Does the sitter have references? Have you checked them out?

7. Follow the following procedures:

a. Inform sitter of your Family's safety plan for emergency situations and ensure sitter is able to carry out the plan.

b. Have realistic expectations for food preparation and bathing.

c. Tell sitter where you will be and how to reach you.

d. Remind sitter to limit personal phone calls and not to allow visitors into the home.

e. Fairfax County Child Supervision Guidelines require that no child under the age of 16 years old should be left alone overnight. Overnight sitters should ideally be 18 years or older.

8. Proponent. The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is the proponent for this policy. The FAP is designed to help us meet our responsibilities and build a strong, healthy community. Points of contact are the FAP Manager, (703) 805-3980, and the Chief of the Department of Social Work Services, (571) 231-1228.

Michelle D. Mitchell
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Colonel, AG
Commanding