

USMA POLICY MEMORANDUM 39-02

SUBJECT: Supervision of Minor Children at USMA

1. PURPOSE. To provide guidelines for supervision of children at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY.

2. REFERENCES.

- a. AR 608-18, Army Family Advocacy Program, Sep 95.
- b. AR 608-10, Child Development Services, Jul 97.
- c. Memorandum, HQ CFSC-CYS, July 00, subject: Out of School Child Supervision Requirements for Elementary and Middle School Children and Youth During Parental Duty Hours.
- d. Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6060.3, School-Age Care Programs, Dec 96, NOTAL.

3. APPLICABILITY. This policy applies to all United States Military Academy (USMA) personnel and family members.

4. BACKGROUND.

a. While realizing that safeguarding children is primarily a parental responsibility, DoD requires each installation to develop a child supervision policy that offers guidelines for parents and the community to achieve this task.

b. DA offers guidelines for establishing this policy, including creation of an installation team to develop a local policy that best meets the needs of USMA.

5. POLICY.

a. The USMA guidelines for the supervision of minor children are based on the child's age and grade in school. The enclosed Table 1 explains the level of supervision required for children and specifies the following:

(1) Children in the fourth grade and below require supervision at all times.

(2) Children in the fifth grade/11 years old are in a transitional year and may gradually begin to exercise self-care beginning with short periods of time, provided the parent/guardian believes the fifth grader/11 year old is mature enough to begin to exercise self-care. While exercising self-care for any

MAPA-FS-A

SUBJECT: Supervision of Minor Children at USMA

length of time during this transitional period, children are required to have ready access to an adult as set up by their parent/guardian prior to leaving the fifth grader/11 year old alone. Education by the parent/guardian on self-care and safety is highly recommended prior to leaving the fifth grader/11 year old alone for the first time, and then at regular intervals during the transitional period.

(3) Children in the sixth grade and above may be left home alone. Children in these grades may also babysit younger siblings. The completion of a babysitting course is highly recommended. They must have ready access to adult supervision.

(4) Children 13 years and older may babysit children other than siblings. A babysitting course is highly recommended.

b. Table 2 provides conversions of ages to grades for home-schooled children.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Military and DoD civilian sponsors are responsible at all times for the supervision, health, safety and welfare of their family members and guests on the installation. Deliberate failure to provide for adequate and reasonable care of minor children may result in adverse consequences for the sponsor. These consequences may include, but are not limited to, criminal prosecution, civil liability, and/or termination of housing privileges on the installation.

b. Child and Youth Services (CYS) will maintain a referral list of registered babysitters who are thirteen and older and who have completed the babysitting course.

c. CYS will maintain a resource list of activities both on and off the installation that are available options for supervision.

d. Every member of the USMA community is responsible for maintaining the highest possible safety standards. Each member should report information regarding known or suspected incidents of child abuse, neglect or maltreatment. This is a matter of conscience and good faith and should be taken seriously. The reporting point of contact for USMA is the Military Police at 938-3333.

7. EXPIRATION. This policy supersedes USMA Policy Memorandum 39-98 and is effective until superseded or rescinded.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Encl

/ original signed /
GRANT M. SMITH
Colonel, EN
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION:

A-E
Electronic

Table 1							
USMA Child Supervision Guidelines							
Age or Grade of Child	Child Characteristics	May be Left Alone at Home	May be Left Alone Overnight	May be Left Outside Unattended (Including Playing)	May Be Left Unattended in a Vehicle	May Babysit Siblings	May Babysit Others (besides siblings)
Newborn through age 4	Requires close supervision at all times	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kindergarten through grade 5 (5 to 10 years old)	Children begin to explore their environment under supervision.	No	No	In playground (close to home) or yard with immediate access (sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision. Kindergarteners may not walk to and from school or other supervised activities alone. 1 st through 5 th graders may walk to and from school and other supervised activities alone.	No	No	No
5 th graders and 11 years old	This is a transitional time for these children. Children are accepting more responsibility, however they continue to require indirect supervision.	For up to 3 hours. Must have access to indirect supervision (neighbor, checking with parent by phone, etc.)	No	Yes, with ready access to adult supervision.	Not more than 15 minutes and keys must be removed.	No	No
Grades 6 through 8	Children are approaching the adolescent years when there is need for increased responsibility. The amount of responsibility should be carefully evaluated. Children continue to need intermittent contact with a supervisor.	For up to 6 hours with ready access to adult supervision.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes Babysitting course is highly recommended	6 th graders may not. 7 th graders who have reached their 13 th birthday may. Babysitting course is highly recommended.
Grades 9 through 10	Children continue need to know how to access parents and guidance for emergency situations. Parents are responsible for their children and their actions.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes Babysitting course is highly recommended	Yes Babysitting course is highly recommended.
Grades 11 and 12 (16+ years)	Parents responsible for their children and their actions as long as family member status is maintained.	Yes	Yes Indirect supervision recommended ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes Babysitting course is highly recommended	Yes Babysitting course is highly recommended.

Table 2													
Conversion from Age to Grade for Home Schooled Children													
Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17&18
Grade	Kindergarten	1st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th

¹ Indirect supervision plans include mandated checking in with a neighbor, emergency phone numbers of parents and emergency medical power of attorney.

