



OFFICE OF LICENSING AND MONITORING

DATE: September 29, 2015

TO: All Residential Child Care Programs

FROM: *DH*
Darlene Ham, Executive Director

RE: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard

Effective October 1, 2015, Residential Child Care Programs are required to train existing and new employees, on the “Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard”. Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is defined as careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain a child’s health, safety, and best interest while at the same time encouraging the child’s emotional and developmental growth, that a caregiver (staff person) must use when determining whether to allow a child in out-of-home placement under the responsibility of the state to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities.

In September 2014, Congress passed the “Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families” Act (Public Law 113-183; H.R. 4980). The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act established the “reasonable and prudent parent” standard.

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard includes cultural, social, enrichment, and/or extracurricular activities that are age and developmentally appropriate. The Residential Child Care Program is responsible for training current and new employees on making sound decisions for the youth in their program regarding social activities such as dating, overnight visits with friends/family, after school activity, and holiday and historical observances.

All Residential Child Care Programs must identify at least one staff person who is authorized and trained to make decisions involving the child’s participation in age or developmentally appropriate activities according to the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard. The acknowledgement of adequate Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard training and agreement with implementation must be added to the employee’s personnel file.

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard will be presented and discussed at the Quarterly Provider Meeting in November 2015.

For further information regarding Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, please refer to:

- www.congress.gov (Public Law 113-183) (H.R.4980)
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/pi1507>
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/pi1507_attachmentb.pdf
- <http://www.ocwtp.net/PDFs/Normalcy%20and%20RPPS%20Guide.pdf>

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