



Services

HOME ALONE POLICY

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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Pages: 2

Distribution: F

This instruction implements DoDI 6060.3, *School Age Care (SAC) Program*, paragraph 1.2, requiring establishment of a home alone or “self care” policy. This instruction establishes local policy concerning the responsibilities of base-affiliated sponsors for their dependents and guests. It is applicable to all personnel assigned or attached to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Ohio.

1. Responsibilities: Active duty military, retired military, DoD employees, and other base-affiliated members are responsible for the welfare of their families and for the conduct of their dependents and guests.

2. Conduct:

2.1. Children under 10 years of age will not be left in quarters, automobiles, or other locations unless under the supervision of a responsible individual 12 years of age or older.

2.2. Age is not the only factor parents should consider when determining if children should be left alone. Other factors to consider are:

2.2.1. Level of maturity.

2.2.2. Emotional development.

2.2.3. Physical health.

2.2.4. Length of time they may be alone.

2.2.5. Time of the day or night.

2.2.6. Other children present or to be supervised.

2.2.7. Location and environmental conditions.

2.2.8. Frequency of being left alone.

2.2.9. Accessibility of the parent or other responsible adult.

2.3. Children of an age to be left alone should be able to demonstrate knowledge of where their parents or other responsible adults are and how to reach them, knowledge of emergency procedures, and ability to access and use a phone easily.

2.4. Recommended Age Guidelines for Supervision of Children: A responsible caretaker must be physically and mentally capable of providing the necessary supervision for the child/children under his or her care.

2.4.1. 0-5 Years Old: Parent/caretaker can hear child at all times and see child frequently.

2.4.2. 6-9 Years Old: Parent/caretaker is easily accessible at all times and knows the child's location.

2.4.3. 10 Years Old: Child may be left alone if there are no emotional or physical limitations and if the child is comfortable with the situation. The length of time the child is left alone depends on the child's capabilities.

2.5. Leaving a child under the age of 10 alone in a car at any time is not acceptable.

3. Babysitter guidelines:

3.1. Individuals under 18 years of age who care for younger children are strongly encouraged to participate in a certified babysitters course. Since there are varying degrees of maturity in children, parents will ensure that older children who babysit have enough experience to care properly for younger children. They must be able to control the children in their care, understand actions to be taken, and take proper action for situations that may arise.

3.2. Babysitter guidelines for siblings:

3.2.1. 12-13 Years Old: Generally able to babysit for family members who are at least 4 years old. It is highly recommended they have successfully completed an approved babysitting course.

3.2.2. 14 Years Old and Over: Generally able to babysit for family member infants, toddlers, and older children. It is highly recommended they have successfully completed an approved babysitting course.

4. Supervising children is one of the most important responsibilities parents have. The ultimate responsibility for the safety, care, well being, and behavior of dependent children remains with the parent, whether they are personally present to supervise them or not.

ROBERT F. RAGGIO, Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander