

REASONABLE AND PRUDENT PARENTING ACTIVITIES GUIDE

The Reasonable & Prudent Parenting Standard is a requirement for IV-E agencies per Federal Law P.L. 113-183 Sec. 111 and it became NRS 424.038 in Nevada. The reasonable and prudent parent standard means the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child. At the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child, that a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the state of Nevada to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities.

This tool is a guide to identify what activities caregivers have the discretion (includes signing permissions/waivers) to give permission for a child or youth’s participation without the prior approval of their local child welfare agency or licensing agency.

The first column in the table shows a category of activities, the second column identifies specific activities within that category that a caregiver has the authority to give permission (or sign whatever might be a part of the activity) without obtaining the agency’s approval. The third column identifies those activities that do require the agencies or court’s approval.

| Child Activity Category | Examples of normal childhood activities caregivers can approve independently | Examples of childhood activities the local child welfare agency or licensing agency must be notified or approve. |
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| Family Recreation | Movies Community events such as concert, fair, food truck, rodeo Family Events Camping Hiking Biking using a helmet, Other sporting activities using appropriate protective gear. Amusement Park Fishing (must follow NRS 503: Any one over age 12 must have a license) | N/A |
| Water Activities | Structured water activities with trained professional guides and /or lifeguards: river tubing, river rafting, water amusement park, swimming at community recreation pool. Unstructured water activities with adult supervision: boating wearing a life jacket, | Children must be closely supervised and use appropriate safety equipment for water activities |
| Using gun, bow, and arrow, (Hunting, target practice, school activities) | N/A | Must have local child welfare agency approval, should have biological parent approval, and would require the following: Child/youth must take the NV. Hunter’s Safety Class. Supervision by a person at least 18 years old or over, who has also taken the above safety course. Documentation that the requirements are met are provided to the local child welfare agency in advance. Target Practice (gun, bow and arrow, cross bow at either formal range or private property) must have local child welfare agency approval and be supervised by adult age 18 or over, abiding by all laws. |

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| Social/Extra-curricular activities | <p>Camps Field Trips School related activities such as football games, dances Church activities that are social Youth Organization activities such as Scouts Attending sports activities Community activities Social activities with peers such as dating, skateboarding, playing in a garage band, etc.</p> <p>Spending the night away from the caregiver's home</p> | <p>Any of these events or activities lasting more than 72 hours</p> <p>If a waiver is required to play the sport (ex. football, lacrosse) both the birth parents' input and the local child welfare agency input.</p> |
| Motorized Activities | <p>Children and caregivers must comply with all laws and use appropriate protective/safety gear. Any safety courses that are required or available to operate any of the vehicles/equipment listed must be taken.</p> <p>State laws must be followed regarding operating motorized equipment or vehicle including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snowmobile All-terrain vehicle Dirt Bike Boat/Jet ski Tractor Golf cart Scooter Go-carts Utility vehicle Motorcycle <p>Children <u>riding in/on</u> a motorized vehicle must be with a properly licensed adult.</p> | <p>Consult with the Child Welfare Agency for their internal policies and discuss the child's developmental abilities. Lawn mower may not be operated by anyone below age 12; Children may not be a passenger on a lawnmower.</p> <p>All-terrain vehicle (NO ONE under 16 may operate unless they are under the continuous visual supervision of a person 18 years or older per NRS 483.580)</p> <p>Boat/Jet ski (At least 16 years of age or, at least 14 years of age and have on board a person at least 18 years of age in a position to supervise the operator. NRS 488.580)</p> <p>Tractor (must be 16 to operate) NRS 483.2521</p> <p>Golf cart (must be 16 to operate) NRS.2521</p> <p>Scooter/Moped (No one under age 16 may operate a moped and no license is required NRS.2521)</p> <p>Motorcycle (No one under 16 may acquire a license or learner's permit. No one less than 18 may drive a motorcycle with a passenger. NRS 486.061)</p> |
| Dating | <p>Caregivers can use the standard to make decisions about the appropriateness of dating.</p> | <p>Caregivers should engage the child's parents, if possible, to determine what their perspective on dating. Caregiver should notify the agency if the child is actively dating.</p> |

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| Haircuts | <p>Caregivers can use the standard to make decisions about haircuts and styling related to everyday care.</p> <p>Caregivers should engage the child's parents, if possible, especially when these decisions are not time sensitive.</p> | <p>Parents are encouraged to provide input about a child's hair or styling so that caregivers are in the best position to make good decisions that help provide care for the child and respect their traditions, culture norm, and views.</p> <p>If the haircut can significantly change the appearance of the child, consultation with the birth parents is recommended.</p> <p>If the child culture is sensitive to haircuts, (ex. Native American), you will need a court order approving the haircut prior to getting a haircut. Reach out to the Agency for additional guidance.</p> |
| Driving | <p>The following persons can be the required second signature for a youth's permit or license:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth's parent or guardian A person approved by the parent or guardian. A person approved by the Division. <p>Specifically for children in custody: Guardian ad litem or attorney advocate; a case worker; or someone else identified by the court of jurisdiction.</p> <p>The youth who is 16 or older may acquire insurance and is responsible for the premium and any damages caused by the youth's negligence. This does not preclude a foster parent from adding a youth to their insurance.</p> <p>A driver's permit is required to "practice" driving in NV and cannot be obtained prior to age 15 ½.</p> | N/A |
| Employment/Babysitting | <p>Youth 14 years and older and following NRS 609</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview for employment Continuation of current employment. Does not interfere with school. <p>*Sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth may not babysit other children.</p> | Youth is 13 years or younger (NRS 609.245) |

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| <p>Social Media and Electronic Devices</p> | <p>Caregivers can use the reasonable and prudent parent standard to make decisions about use of social media, a cell phone or other electronic devices with data and access to the internet.</p> <p>The Child Welfare Agency should encourage access to technology for youth in foster care and seeks to balance supporting access with child safety and respect for the wishes of the child's caregiver and parent or legal guardian.</p> <p>Youth in care should be given the opportunity to have access to a cell phone to the same extent as their peers, but the caregiver should use the standard to determine rules around use of a cell phone.</p> <p>Also note that the child welfare agency cannot purchase cell phones or minutes, so purchase of a phone and a data plan needs to be determined by the youth's case planning team, including the parent or guardian.</p> <p>Examples of reasonable restrictions may include not allowing social calls after bedtime or until homework has been completed, or limiting social calls to ensure that telephone use does not infringe upon the rights of others.</p> <p>Caregiver must ensure the child's age and behavioral/developmental abilities are considered and appropriate.</p> | <p>This is a collaborative decision between the placement provider, the local child welfare agency worker, and the youth.</p> |
| <p>Child's Appearance</p> | <p>Interventions requiring medical treatment for lice and ring worm</p> | <p>When the child and biological parent choices are in conflict such as with perms, color, style, relaxers, etc.</p> <p>Ear piercings must include biological parent in decision.</p> <p>Permanent or significant changes including but not limited to:</p> <p>Piercing (illegal for anyone under 18 to receive a piercing (other than the ears) without consent of custodial parent or guardian.</p> <p>Tattoos (illegal for anyone under 18 to receive a tattoo.)</p> |

It is important to realize this is simply a guide as to who has the authority to provide permission. It does not automatically mean that every foster child or youth can participate in any of these activities. It does mean that a reasonable & prudent parent standard is applied in making the decision. The standard is applied to each child and youth individually, based on the totality of their situation.

**Local child welfare agency or licensing agency approval or new court order is needed any time an activity conflicts with any court order or supervision/safety plan*