

## Normalcy Guidelines

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OUT OF HOME CARE WORKGROUP on Licensing/Normalcy  
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### Legal Directives:

FL Statutes – Chapter 409.1451

FL Administrative Code

- 65c-13 Substitute Care of Children
- 65C- 28.009 Adolescent Services
- 65C-31 Services to Young Adults Formerly in the Custody of the Department

### Examples of 'Life Skills Services':

- Banking Skills
- Budgeting Skills
- Interviewing
- Parenting Skills
- Time Management & Organization
- Educational Support
- Employment Training
- Counseling
- Insurance Benefits
- Public Assistance

### Guidelines for dating, outings and activities:

The licensed out of home caregiver is the primary decision maker. Their familiarity of the foster child, including behaviors and the ability of the youth to make sound decisions, shall factor into the caregiver's decision to allow the youth to be unsupervised. The Agency should be consulted and involved in the decision making process when the licensed caregiver is unsure of the appropriate decision, or when support for a particular decision is needed.

Foster parents and group home staff should use their parenting skills and familiarize themselves with the individual or group that the child wishes to spend time with and evaluate the child's maturity level and ability to participate in the activity appropriately. The same 'common sense' approach to making decisions that you would apply with your own child should be where this process begins.

## **Additional Guidelines:**

### **Spending the Night**

- **Talk to the parents where the youth is staying to avoid relying on child to child communication for all information**
- **Who is going to be in the home?**
- **Confirm pick up and drop off times and locations.**
- **What are the plans for the evening? (Are the parents going to be home all night?)**
- **Will everyone remain in the home?**
- **If plans change ensure they know to call so you can give a verbal OK.**
- **Make a plan if youth becomes uncomfortable**
- **Exchange phone numbers with parents**
- **Give youth YOUR phone number**

### **Dating**

- **Meet the date**
- **Confirm the transportation arrangements (who driving, what driving, etc.)**
- **Confirm pick up and drop off times**
- **What are the plans for the evening?**
- **If date is driving, verify drivers license and insurance**
- **Will anyone else be there? Who else will be involved?**
- **If plans change ensure they know to call BEFORE they make the changes.**
- **Make a plan if youth becomes uncomfortable.**
- **Give youth YOUR phone number**
- **Get the date's phone number**

### **Can I go to a friend's house after school?**

- **Talk to the parents where the youth is going**
- **Confirm transportation arrangements (who is driving, who will be in the car)**
- **Who is going to be in the home?**
- **Confirm pick up and drop off times and locations**
- **What are the plans for time spent in the home?**
- **Have youth call if they decide to leave or if other people are coming over to confirm plans and OK**
- **Make a plan if youth becomes uncomfortable**
- **Exchange phone numbers with parents**
- **Give youth YOUR phone number**

**Guidelines for Allowance:**

**A portion of the foster home and group care board rates paid for a child includes a required amount for an allowance, clothing and incidentals. Guidelines for children age 13+:**

- **Allowance: \$12**
- **Incidentals: \$11**
- **Clothing: \$43**