



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY 42223-5000

07 APR 01

AFZB-CA-CY

MEMORANDUM FOR Occupants of Government Quarters

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) – Ft. Campbell Home Alone and Curfew Policy

1. Purpose:

- a. Establish a Ft. Campbell out-of-school “home alone” and “curfew” policy to identify the ages and circumstances under which a child may be left at home alone without adult supervision during non-school hours.
- b. Emphasize the need for parents to arrange for the care and supervision of dependent children.
- c. Articulate the rationale for more stringent supervision requirements outlined in the MOI than required in AR 608-18, paragraph 3-5e, Indicators of Child Abuse.
- d. Provide parents with choices and information about a variety of supervision options for their elementary and middle school children.
- e. Curfew guidance in accordance with CAM, Reg 210-1, paragraph 14.

2. Scope and Applicability: The guidance in this MOI specifically addresses:

- a. All agencies and personnel cooperate to protect the safety of our children. Parents/guardians residing at Ft. Campbell will follow these instructions, which address basic standards and common sense. Good judgment must be used at all times.
- b. The routine safety and protection of children and youth who are unsupervised or in self-care.
- c. Parental choices for provisions of safe supervision and age appropriate care for elementary school children, and available activity options for middle/high school youth during weekday parental duty hours.

3. Background: The need for an installation elementary and middle school child supervision policy during all non-school hours is outlined as follows:

- a. Safeguarding children is a parental responsibility. Parents generally accept full responsibility for early elementary school aged children, while being less attentive to planning for supervision of older elementary school aged children (10-11 years old). Typically, middle school and high school (12-17 years old) students, who are too old for childcare, and in many cases, too young to have an after-school job, remain home alone.

AFZB-CA-CY

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) – Ft. Campbell Home Alone and Curfew Policy

b. Research indicates those unsupervised children are at risk for personal injury (physical, emotional, and sexual) to other persons and/or property, early sexual activity, substance abuse, and are more apt to engage in vandalism and petty crimes.

(1) Statistics from the National Center for Juvenile Justice indicate that the majority of juvenile crimes are committed between the hours of 1600 and 1800 hours.

(2) Prevention of such outcomes through child/youth supervision policies is far less costly in terms of lost duty time and installation resources than providing intervention services after the fact.

c. Commanders have a responsibility to reduce potential command liability through risk management. Implementation and enforcement of a child supervision policy enables commanders to:

(1) Safeguard children and youth by ensuring they are supervised on a continuous basis.

(2) Reduce risk associated with children and youth who are unsupervised in housing/common areas (for example, playing with matches, guns, etc.).

(3) Minimize installation property damage (for example, vandalism that occurs when school age children are unsupervised).

(4) Decrease soldier, civilian, and family member lost duty time due to child/youth misconduct resulting from lack of supervision.

d. A FY97 Sample Survey of Military Personnel asked soldiers to indicate; "In general, at what age do you consider it safe to start leaving a child alone at home unsupervised for more than two hours?" The most common response among officers (51.2%) and enlisted (47.7%) personnel was 12 to 13 years of age.

4. Applicability: This MOI supersedes the 2000 MOI – Ft. Campbell Home Alone Policy.

5. Policy: Non-school child supervision policy is developed prior to implementation by an installation multidisciplinary team, (for example, Child and Youth Services, Community Services/Family Advocacy, Provost Marshall, Staff Judge Advocate, housing, and command representatives). The policy is then approved and enforced by the Installation Commander as part of the overall child supervision policy that governs children, curfews, leaving children in vehicles, juvenile review boards, etc.

a. Violations are referred to the installation Family Advocacy Report Point of Contact. The referrals are assessed for credibility, validity and processed as deemed appropriate. Child and Youth Services may be called upon for assistance in developing a child care plan if warranted.

b. The well being of the children and youth is of the utmost concern to command leadership, the Department of the Army, and the Department of Defense. This policy is intended to provide a minimum framework to protect children from "at risk" behavior. Soldiers, civilians, and family members should be alert to any action or situation that endangers children. However, parents are ultimately responsible for ensuring their children are properly supervised and safeguarded.

AFZB-CA-CY

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) – Ft. Campbell Home Alone and Curfew Policy

c. Army and other service personnel assigned to and/or residing on Ft. Campbell who have dependent children younger than high school have a responsibility to ensure that their children are appropriately supervised during non-school duty hours.

d. Children five years old or younger must not be left unattended inside or outside of quarters, or alone in a vehicle. Children four or five years of age that are enrolled in school must be under the direct supervision of a designated adult when meeting or being dropped off from a school bus.

e. Children six through 10 years of age must not be left unattended inside quarters or alone in a vehicle. Parents or designated adults of these elementary aged children must know the whereabouts and activity that the children are involved in at all times when outside playing.

f. Youth 11 through 14 years of age may be left unattended or home alone up to three hours. Recommend parents assess the physical and emotional capabilities of their child(ren) prior to doing so.

g. Youth 15 through 17 years of age may be left attended or home alone up to eight hours (not to include overnight).

h. Curfew for all dependents and guests under 18 years of age will be in their quarters no later than 2400 hours during summer vacation periods, Friday and Saturday nights, and the nights proceeding school holidays, unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible adult. Exception may be made for recognized functions of the school, Teen Club or in the event of emergencies. During all other periods, all dependents and guests under 18 years of age will be in their quarters no later than 2300.

i. Special needs children: These guidelines are to be modified in accordance with their special needs.

6. Babysitting:

a. Youth in seventh and eighth grade, who are no younger than 13 years of age may care for children (baby sit) up to three hours if the youth has attended the Red Cross Babysitting Class.

b. Youth in 9th through 12th grade (high school) may care for children up to eight hours. Children will not be supervised by anyone under the age of 18 years of age for more than eight hours/overnight.

7. Support Services:

a. Commanders can help families minimize the conflict between parental responsibilities and unit mission requirements through installation Child and Youth Services (CYS) with supervised care/activity options for both school age and middle school children on a regular basis during out-of-school hours.

b. CYS Outreach Services provides current and accurate information about options available on-and off-post through schools, youth organizations, chapels, and other agencies.

c. Child care options are: Child Development Services (CDS): Family Childcare (FCC), Child Development Centers (CDC), School-Age Services (SAS); Middle School/Teen (MST); Youth Sports and Fitness; CYS Instructional Classes.

AFZB-CA-CY

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) – Ft. Campbell Home Alone and Curfew Policy

- (1) Activity options are affordable to patrons, cost-effective, and sustainable for the Army.
 - (2) Activity options are provided in sufficient quantity based on facility and financial ability. Activities are planned and documented as part of the Installation Child and Youth Operational Plan (ICOP).
 - (3) With parents consent, allow a child above the second grade or older to walk unaccompanied to school (during school hours) if sidewalk/crossing guards are available.
 - d. Parents should assess the physical and emotional capabilities of their child(ren) and the potential risks or advantages to their child(ren) in selecting the most appropriate options.
8. Point of contact is Katy Eccles, Director, CYS, 798-2164.


LARRY D. RUGGLEY
COL, SF
Commander USAG