



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
**UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY**  
West Point, New York 10996

OCT 05 2005

IMNE-MIL-MWA

**USMA POLICY MEMORANDUM 39-06**

**SUBJECT:** Supervision of Minor Children at West Point

**1. PURPOSE.** To provide guidelines for supervision of children at West Point, NY.

**2. REFERENCES.**

- a. AR 608-18, Family Advocacy Program, September 2004
- b. AR 608-10, Child Development Services, July 1997
- c. Memorandum, HQ CFSC-CYS, July 2000, subject: Out of School Child Supervision Requirements for Elementary and Middle School Children and Youth During Parental Duty Hours.
- d. Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6060.3, School-Age Care Programs, December 1996.

**3. APPLICABILITY.** This policy applies to all personnel assigned to United States Military Academy (USMA), United States Army Garrison – West Point (USAG-WP), family members and tenant activities.

**4. BACKGROUND.**

- a. While realizing that safeguarding children is primarily a parental responsibility, DOD requires each installation to develop a child supervision policy that offers guidelines for parents and the community to achieve this task.
- b. DA offers guidelines for establishing this policy, including creation of an installation team to develop a local policy that best meets the needs of West Point.

**5. POLICY.**

a. The West Point guidelines for the supervision of minor children are based on the child's age and grade in school. The attached Table 1 explains the level of supervision required for children and specifies the following:

- (1) Children in the fourth grade and below require supervision at all times.
- (2) Children in the fifth grade/11 years old are in a transitional year and may gradually begin to exercise self-care beginning with short periods of time, provided the parent/guardian believes the fifth grader/11 year old is mature enough to exercise self-care. While exercising self-care for any length of time during this transitional period, children are required to have ready access to an adult as set up by their parent/guardian prior to leaving the fifth grader/11 year old alone. Education by the parent/guardian

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on self-care and safety is highly recommended prior to leaving the fifth grader/11 year old alone for the first time, and then at regular intervals during the transitional period.

(3) Children in the sixth grade and above may be left home alone. Children in these grades may also baby-sit younger siblings. The completion of a babysitting course is highly recommended. Children must have ready access to adult supervision.

(4) Children 13 years and older may baby-sit children other than siblings. A babysitting course is highly recommended.

b. Table 2 provides conversions of ages to grades for home-schooled children.

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Military and DOD civilian sponsors are responsible at all times for the supervision, health, safety and welfare of their family members and guests on the installation. Deliberate failure to provide for adequate and reasonable care of minor children may result in adverse consequences for the sponsor. These consequences may include, but are not limited to, criminal prosecution, civil liability, and/or termination of housing privileges on the installation.

b. Child and Youth Services (CYS) will maintain a referral list of registered babysitters who are thirteen and older and who have completed the babysitting course.

c. CYS will maintain a resource list of activities both on and off the installation that are available options for supervision.

d. Every member of the West Point community is responsible for maintaining the highest possible safety standards. Each member should report information regarding known or suspected incidents of child abuse or child neglect. This is a matter of conscience and good faith and should be taken seriously. The Reporting Point Of Contact (RPOC) is the Military Police at 938-3333.

7. **EXPIRATION.** This policy supercedes USMA Policy 39-02 dated 25 April 2002 and is effective until superseded or rescinded.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:



MICHAEL COLPO  
COL, IN  
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION:

A-E  
Electronic

USMA CHILD SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

TABLE 1

Age or grade of child	Child Characteristics	May be left alone at home	May be left alone overnight	May be left outside unattended (playing)	May be left alone in a vehicle	May baby-sit siblings	May baby-sit others (besides siblings)
Newborn to age 4	Requires close supervision at all times	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Ages 5-9 years old	Children begin to explore their environment under supervision	NO	NO	At playground (close to home) or with immediate access (sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision. Kindergartners may not walk to and from school or other supervised activities alone. 1 <sup>st</sup> through 5 <sup>th</sup> graders may walk to and from school and other supervised activities alone.	NO	NO	NO
Age 10 years old - continue to require supervision	This is a transitional time for these children. They are accepting more responsibility; require intermittent supervision.	For UP TO 3 hours. Must have access to indirect supervision (neighbor, checking with parent by phone, etc.)	NO	YES, with ready access to adult supervision.	Not more than 15 minutes and the keys MUST be removed.	NO	NO
Ages 11-13, continue to need intermittent contact with adult supervisor	Children are approaching the adolescent years when there is need for increase responsibility. The amount of responsibility should be carefully evaluated.	For UP TO 6 hours, with ready access to adult supervision; intermittent contact with a supervisor.	NO	YES	YES	YES - babysitting course is highly recommended.	6 <sup>th</sup> graders may NOT. 7 <sup>th</sup> graders who have reached their birthday may. Babysitting course is highly recommended.
Ages 14-15 Parents are responsible for their children and their actions.	Children continue to need to know how to access parents and guidance for emergency situations.	YES, parents are responsible for their children and their actions.	NO	YES	YES	YES - babysitting course is highly recommended.	YES - babysitting course is highly recommended.
Ages 16-18	Parents responsible for their children and their actions as long as family member status is maintained.	YES	YES - indirect supervision recommended (1)	YES	YES	YES - babysitting course is highly recommended.	YES - babysitting course is highly recommended.

(1) – Indirect supervision plans include mandated checking in with a neighbor, emergency phone numbers of parents and emergency medical power of attorney.

TABLE 2		CONVERSION FROM AGE TO GRADE FOR HOME SCHOOLED CHILDREN											
AGE	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17/18
GRADE	Kindergarten	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>