

## FACT SHEET

DMWR-CYS  
Y. PHILLIPS/287-9833

IMSW-HOD-MWC

SUBJECT: Revised Out of School Child Supervision Policy

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide information on the Fort Hood *Out of School Child Supervision Policy* (also known as the "Home Alone Policy").

2. **FACTS:**

a. The revised Fort Hood *Out of School Child Supervision Policy* will be outlined in the revision to the FH Reg 210-48, Installation Housing Community Standards, Chapter 7, which will be published by DPW-Housing Division in the near future. The requirements are designed to protect children residing on the installation and are more stringent than required by the most recent Department of Defense guidance. Parents are accountable for the conduct of their minor children and are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy. Thus, personnel will be required to acknowledge their parental responsibilities during inprocessing. Unsupervised children are subject to "at risk" behaviors, to include victimization, early sexual activity, substance abuse, and engaging in vandalism and petty crimes.

b. **Children 10 years old and under (or 11 years old if in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade)** will be under **direct supervision** (line of sight) by an adult, parent, School Age Services (SAS) site staff, designated "responsible teenager" who is at least 13 years of age, or 12 years of age if in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and has completed the American Red Cross Babysitter Certification Course.

c. **Children Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade walking to and from school** must have **direct supervision** by an adult, parent, designated "responsible teenager" who is at least 13 years of age, or 12 years of age if in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and has completed the American Red Cross Babysitter Certification Course. If parents are not able to provide direct supervision, as required, then Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade children should be enrolled in a Child and Youth Services' Child Development Center (CDC), Family Childcare (FCC), or School Age Services (SAS) sites for Before/After School Care. Children in CDCs/SAS sites will be walked or transported by CYS staff to and from school. This requirement is a result of a local Army Family Action Plan issue and was recommended to the Garrison Commander by the Family Advocacy Committee.

d. **Children 11 years old (or 12 years old if in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade)** will have **monitored supervision**. Parents may designate an adult neighbor with whom the children may "physically" check-in at intervals. Parents are required to ensure the child is capable and knowledgeable in handling emergency situations.

e. Youth 12 years old (or 11 years old if in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade) may be unattended for no more than 6 hours during a 24-hour period. Additionally, this age group may sign themselves in/out of a youth center for no more than 6 hours per day during youth center operating hours.

f. Teenagers between the ages of 13-15 years may be left unattended between the hours of 0600 to 2100, but not to exceed 8 hours during a 24-hour period.

g. Teenagers between the ages of 16-18 years (and still in high school) will not be left unattended for more than 12 hours during a 24-hour period.

h. Every Soldier, employee, and family member of the military community must report known violations of this policy and suspected child abuse to the Family Advocacy Program or the Military Police (MPs). The numbers designated for this purpose are 287-CARE or 287-2273. Actions taken by the MPs when a child is found unattended are contingent upon the age and degree of danger in which the child is found. The MPs will safeguard and identify the child; detain and return to parental control. Violations of this policy may result in referrals to on-post agencies and could result in loss of quarters.

i. Child and Youth Services (CYS) staff are available to assist parents with finding suitable childcare at a Child Development Center, SAS site, or in a certified Family Child Care home on or off the installation. Parents can visit the CYS Central Enrollment Registry (CER) Office, Building #18010 (Copeland Soldiers Service Center), corner of Hood Road and Battalion Avenue, Room 209B, collocated with Housing; or call CERO at (254) 287-8029.



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DATE: 22 Jun 06