

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services Section 23: Extracurricular Activities	
	Effective Date: July 1, 2026	Version: 5

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) supports out-of-home children's participation in extracurricular activities for healthy development emotional growth.

POLICY STATEMENT

Children in out-of-home care may participate in extracurricular activities if reasonably safe.

Note: Resource parents and caregivers should use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to decide if the activity is a good fit based on the child's wishes, age, interests, abilities, mental and physical health, behavioral issues, and safety needs.

For concerns about the safety or appropriateness of an activity, the Child and Family Team (CFT) should:

1. Meet to review the activity; and
2. Make a recommendation using the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

DCS may deny the request if the activity is not in the child's best interest.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2.1-198: Reasonable and prudent parent standard](#)
- [IC 31-27-3-18.5: Use of reasonable and prudent parent standard](#)