

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 8:</b> Out-of-Home Services	<b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2015
	<b>Section 23:</b> Extracurricular Activities	<b>Version:</b> 2

<b>STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE</b>
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will engage the child’s resource parent(s) in a discussion regarding the child’s participation in extracurricular activities, which include, but are not limited to school, community, and/or cultural activities. DCS will ensure that the activities are age-appropriate, reasonably safe, and appropriately supervised.

DCS will require the resource parent(s) to notify the child’s Family Case Manager (FCM) in writing (email is acceptable) or by phone of any extracurricular activities in which the child may participate. DCS may deny the request for the child’s participation in an extracurricular activity if it is determined that it is not in the child’s best interest. DCS will ensure the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian; members of the Child and Family Team (CFT); and the court are informed of all extracurricular activities in which the child will participate. Concerns regarding the appropriateness of an extracurricular activity should be addressed by the CFT.

Code References

1. [IC 31-9-2-101.5: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#)
2. [IC 31-27-3-18.5: Use of Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#)

<b>PROCEDURE</b>
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The FCM will:

1. Discuss with the resource parent(s), using the [Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#), the child’s participation in the extracurricular activity;
2. Ensure the resource parent has current information regarding the child’s history (medical, social, prior participation) to allow the resource parent to make informed decisions regarding the child’s participation in the activity;
3. Ensure that any extracurricular activities the child participates in is:
  - a. Age-appropriate,
  - b. Reasonably safe, and
  - c. Provide appropriate supervision.
4. Convene a Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting, if concerns arise regarding the extracurricular activity (safety, age-appropriateness, adult supervision, etc.), to discuss the activity and make a recommendation regarding the child’s participation. See related policy [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#);

**Note:** If the child’s extracurricular participation involves an overnight activity or event, see policy [8.24 Travel, Outings and Overnight Stays while in Out-of-Home Care](#) for details on required verbal approval or notice within seven (7) days of the activity or event.

5. Inform the parent, guardian, or custodian; court; and members of the CFT of the child's participation in an extracurricular activity; and
6. Document information regarding the activity in the case management system.

## **PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Children in out-of-home care deserve normalized childhood experiences, which may include sleepovers with friends, group meetings, participation in extracurricular activities (e.g., sports, scouting, proms), and other community and cultural activities.

Resource parents and caregivers should carefully consider the child's participation in each extracurricular activity, and determine if the activity is appropriate given the child's wishes, age, interests, abilities, mental and physical health, behavioral issues, and safety needs.

Extracurricular activities for children in out-of-home care should be limited to those activities that are "reasonably safe." If there is a concern regarding the safety or appropriateness of a particular activity, the CFT should convene to review the proposed activity and make a recommendation regarding the child's participation.

## **FORMS AND TOOLS**

[8.F Tool: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#)

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard**

A caregiver must use the [Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#) when determining whether to allow a child in foster care, under the responsibility of the state, to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, social, and cultural activities. The [Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#) is characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain a child's health, safety, and best interests, while at the same time, encouraging the child's emotional and developmental growth.