

# Caregiver Guidelines For Foster Childhood Activities To Assist In Caregiver Decision Making

[RCW 74.13.710](#) authorizes caregivers to provide or withhold permission without prior approval of the CA worker or department to allow a child in their care to participate in normal childhood activities based on a reasonable and prudent standard. This standard is characterized by careful and thoughtful parental decisions intended to maintain a child's health, safety, and best interest which encourage the child's emotional growth and development.

A "normal childhood activity" includes "extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities, and may include overnight activities outside the direct supervision of the caregiver for period of over twenty-four hours and up to seventy-two hours."

These guidelines do not apply to youth in the Extended Foster Care Program.

Child Activity Category	Green – Examples of normal Childhood Activities caregivers can approve independently*	Red- Examples of childhood activities CA must approve* or obtain a court order
<i>(CA worker approval or new court order is needed any time an activity is in conflict with any court order or supervision/safety plan)</i>		
<b>Family Recreation</b> (Children should be closely supervised and use appropriate safety equipment for water activities.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movies</li> <li>• Community Events</li> <li>• Family Events (less than 72 hours)</li> <li>• Camping (less than 72 hours)</li> <li>• Hiking</li> <li>• Boating wearing a lifejacket</li> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Biking using a helmet</li> <li>• Other sporting activities using appropriate protective gear</li> <li>• River tubing</li> <li>• River rafting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any events or activities over 72 hours</li> </ul>

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<b>Social/Extra-curricular Activities</b>	<p><b>Less</b> than 72 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camps</li> <li>• Field Trips</li> <li>• School Related Activities</li> <li>• Church Activities</li> <li>• Youth Organization Activities</li> <li>• Sports Activities</li> <li>• Community Activities</li> <li>• Social Activities with Peers</li> <li>• Spending the night away from the caregiver's home.</li> </ul>	<p><b>More</b> than 72 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camps</li> <li>• Field Trips</li> <li>• School Related Activities</li> <li>• Church Activities</li> <li>• Youth Organization Activities</li> <li>• Sports Activities</li> <li>• Community Activities</li> <li>• Social Activities with Peers</li> <li>• Spending the night away from the caregiver's home.</li> </ul>
<b>Motorized Activities</b>	<p>Children and caregivers must comply with all laws use appropriate protective/safety gear.</p> <p><b>Children riding in</b> a motorized vehicle with an adult including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snowmobile</li> <li>• All-terrain vehicle</li> <li>• Jet ski</li> <li>• Tractor</li> </ul> <p><b>At least</b> 14 years old <u>operating</u> motorized equipment or vehicle including but limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawn mower</li> <li>• Snowmobile</li> <li>• All-terrain vehicle</li> <li>• Jet ski</li> <li>• Tractor</li> </ul>	<p>Children under 14 are not permitted to operate motorized equipment or vehicles (e.g. lawn mower, motorcycle)</p>

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<b>Driving</b>	<p>Caregiver acts as the “parent/guardian” for the purposes of the Intermediate Driver’s License Law.</p> <p>Caregiver must provide and pay for insurance for the child driving and agrees to maintain insurance and pay for insurance until child reaches 18 or another responsible adult assumes financial liability risks for the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driver’s education classes</li> <li>• Driver’s training</li> <li>• Driver’s test</li> <li>• Issuance of a driver’s license</li> </ul>	
<b>Travel</b>	<p>All travel within the United States <b>less</b> than 72 hours</p> <p>Travel to the British Columbia (BC) territories of BC Rockies, Thompson/Okanogan and Vancouver Coast and Mountains are considered ‘border counties’ to Washington State and do not require out of country approval if less than 72 hours. All territories beyond are considered out of country travel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All travel <b>more</b> than 72 hours.</li> <li>• All out-of-country travel</li> </ul>
<b>Employment/ Babysitting</b>	<p>Youth <b>14 years old or older</b> and following <a href="#">WAC 296-125</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview for employment</li> <li>• Continuation of current employment</li> <li>• Does not interfere with school</li> </ul>	Youth is <b>13 years or younger</b>
<i>Resource</i> <a href="http://www.TeenWorkers.Lni.wa.gov">www.TeenWorkers.Lni.wa.gov</a>	<p><b>Reminder:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster children may not babysit other foster children.</li> <li>• Sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth may not babysit other children.</li> </ul>	
<b>Religious Participation</b>	Attend a religious service of the child’s choice.	Notify worker when the child and biological

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		parent choices are in conflict.
<b>Child's Appearance</b>	Non-permanent changes including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance haircuts: Standard trim that does not significantly change the child's appearance.</li> </ul>	When the child and biological parent choices are in conflict <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hairstyle</li> </ul> Permanent or significant changes including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piercing</li> <li>• Tattoos</li> </ul>

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