

APPENDIX 4: REASONABLE & PRUDENT PARENTING (RPPS)

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	<p>GREEN – RPPS APPLIES.</p> <p>Caregiver may make a reasonable and prudent parenting decision without consulting the Department in advance as long as the activity is developmentally and age appropriate.</p>	<p>RED – RPPS DOES NOT APPLY.</p> <p>Caregiver must contact the Dept. (DCS) for approval / consultation</p>
Children on Probation or Parole	<p>Cannot consider the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard until it is determined the activity is in compliance with the court orders and terms, and conditions of the probation or parole.</p>	<p>The terms or conditions of Probation or Parole are court orders and therefore RPPS decisions cannot supersede the established court orders</p> <p>For each decision requiring approval / consultation or notification of the Department. The caregiver is to seek approval, notify or consult with both the DCS Child Safety Specialist and the assigned Probation or Parole Officer.</p>
Parental Input for Decision Making... Shared Parenting	<p>The birth parent’s input should be sought, considered and valued in the decision making process.</p> <p>Soon after placement, the caregiver and parent should meet to start the shared parenting relationship. The caregiver should seek guidance and assistance from the parent for general decisions made through the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard. A preferred method of communication should be established.</p> <p>Caregivers are to contact the parents, unless there is a safety concern noted by DCS, prior to participation in the specific activity. The collaboration may occur in a CFT Meeting, a Case Plan Meeting, before or after a family visitation, as a telephone call, an email or whatever communication method is best.</p> <p>As caregivers, we can model the concept of critical thinking by the verbal discussion with the child and parent. Go through the steps of what questions you ask and what determines your answer. This will teach both the child and parent the thought process to come to a decision. It also affords the child to see that the adults in their life have their best interest at heart and are working in collaboration.</p> <p>After listening and sincerely considering the parents input, a decision is to be made by the caregiver. The noted concerns of the parent may not necessarily determine the participation of the child in that specific activity.</p>	<p>If consensus cannot be reached and the decision can wait, seek the advice of the DCS Child Safety Specialist or Child and Family Team (CFT). DCS or the CFT will document the decision and determine if court approval is necessary.</p> <p>After listening and sincerely considering the parents input, a decision is to be made by the caregiver. The noted concerns of the parent may not necessarily determine the participation of the child in that specific activity.</p>
Recreation with Caregivers	<p>Examples include but are not limited to movies, community events, hiking, camping, and swimming with the caregiver.</p> <p>Caregivers are not required to notify DCS for in state outings up to 48 hours.</p>	<p>Caregivers must notify DCS of outings more than 2 days and less than 7 days in length.</p> <p>Caregivers must seek DCS approval for in state outings if 7 or more days in length.</p>

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Entertainment	Caregivers are encouraged to allow the child to make age appropriate choices with respect to media activities, such as movies, video games, music, magazines and internet usage. A child should generally be allowed to choose entertainment that reflects his/her taste and preference. Ratings and parental warnings or guidelines should be followed; however, the caregiver should also take into account the child's developmental and maturity level, potential sensitivity to certain subject matter and other relative factors. No child should be forced into a particular type of activity.	
Short Term Caregiver	<p>The Arizona law gives foster parents the ability to have another adult (18 years of age or older) caregiver provide short-term care for a child in foster care. The law allows foster parents to use their 'reasonable judgment' in selecting shortterm caregivers for children in foster care. Specifically, the law states that foster parents must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use reasonable judgment in their choice of an adult to provide care. • Notify the DCS Child Safety Specialist within 24 hours in a nonemergency situation. • Notify the DCS Child Safety Specialist within 72 hours in an emergency situation. 	<p>Notify the DCS Child Safety Specialist within 24 hours in a non-emergency situation.</p> <p>Notify the DCS Child Safety Specialist within 72 hours for an emergency situation.</p> <p>Remember, use of short-term caregivers does not apply to a child with a developmental disability, a child in a therapeutic/ treatment foster care placement or a medically fragile/complex child. For these children an alternate care plan approved by DCS is required if the foster parent must leave the child in the care of another person.</p> <p>This law does not apply to children placed in congregate care settings.</p>

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Short Term Caregiver (Continued)	<p>When selecting a short-term caregiver, the foster parent must keep in mind the ability of the short-term caregiver to meet the specific needs of the child including administering medication and medication storage, school/child care schedules, medical and behavioral health appointments, visitation and transportation to and from these appointments. For continuity of care, the short-term care giver should have the DCS Mercy Care CHP card and a contact list including: the DCS Child Safety Specialist, the juvenile probation officer (if applicable), school information, primary care physician, behavioral health provider, transportation provider for visits and how the caregiver can be reached.</p> <p>Examples of non-emergency situations could include going out to dinner, to a movie, running errands, grocery shopping or allowing children to be in the nursery at church.</p> <p>An emergency situation may include a death in the family, serious illness in the family or extended family, another child in the home in the hospital, foster parent illness, unexpected heating, cooling or plumbing issues in the home or home damage from a storm. The short-term caregiver arrangement does not apply to typical and recurrent day care or respite care situations. Any payment arrangements must be made privately between the primary caregiver and the short-term caregiver.</p>	
Background checks	<p>Background screening is not a requirement for participation in community activities.</p> <p>Criminal and abuse/neglect central registry checks for dating, outings and activities with friends, families and school and church groups are not necessary for participation in normal school or community activities.</p>	<p>A background check may be requested if there reason to believe the people the child is visiting have a criminal history. In this situation, consult with the DCS Child Safety Specialist. As always, the “prudent parent standard” should be applied in making these decisions.</p>

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Social / Extracurricular (Without the caregiver being present)	<p>Including but not limited to camps, field trips, school related activities, church activities, youth organizations, sport, and social activities with peers, etc. where the caregiver is not a chaperone or present.</p> <p>This law encourages children participate in extracurricular activities to the extent that the caregiver feels the specific activity is appropriate for the child’s developmental level.</p> <p>A child in care can participate in school or organized sports and activities.</p> <p>Caregivers may sign permission slips for these activities. The caregiver must ensure that the child has the correct safety equipment, any necessary permission and training necessary to safely engage in each activity which the child participates.</p>	<p>The caregiver must contact DCS for pre-approval of any overnight event exceeding two nights, where the caregiver is not present.</p>
Going to a friend’s home	<p>Creating and maintaining peer social interaction are encouraged by the federal law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet face-to-face with the friend’s parents at least once before the first outing. • Talk to the friend’s parents where the foster child is staying to avoid relying on child to child communication for all information. • Confirm transportation arrangements (who is driving, who will be in the car) • Who is going to be in the home? • Confirm pick up and drop off times and locations • What are the plans for time spent in the home? • Have foster child call if there are changes to the previous arrangements such as, the foster child and his or her friend decide to leave or if other people are coming over so you can confirm plans and grant permission. • Make a plan if child becomes uncomfortable • Exchange phone numbers with parents • Give the child YOUR phone number 	

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Overnights / Sleep Overs	<p>The foster child may spend the night in an unlicensed settings with the permission of their caregivers for no more than two consecutive nights. The caregiver is to know where and with whom the child is staying and the type of supervision and care the child shall be receiving before approving the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to the parents where the child is staying to avoid relying on child to child communication for all information or meet face-to-face with the parents/guardians of the family with whom the foster child will be staying overnight to ensure, as best as possible, the safety of the child. • Determine any other individuals who will be in the home during the overnight stay and determine, as best as possible, that they will not endanger the child's safety. • Share all emergency contact information with the host family. • How will the child's medications be administered? • Will the host parents be administering the medications? • Can the child self-administer the medications?* • Will you be driving over and administering the medications? • Given all historical information about the foster child, the caregiver must be vigilant in ensuring the overnight stay does not pose any risks to either the foster child or anyone else in the host's home. • Ask what the sleeping arrangements will be. • Is a parent or parents going to be home all night? • Confirm pick up and drop off times and locations. • What are the plans for the evening? • Will everyone remain in the home? • If plans change ensure the child know to call so you can give a verbal approval. • Make a plan if the child becomes uncomfortable. • Give child YOUR phone number. 	<p>Any overnight event that will exceed two nights.</p> <p>*Prior written DCS Child Safety Specialist approval is needed for the child to self-administer prescribed medication(s).</p> <p>Only medications for the period of time away are to be sent, in the original labeled bottles.</p> <p>Check with your agency to see a medication transfer document is required or if a medication log is required?</p>

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Leaving A Child Unsupervised in the foster home	<p>The caregiver may approve a child age 12 years and older to be unsupervised for reasonable amounts of time; however unsupervised time should be decided based on the child’s functioning, current behavior, history and ability. The child is to have resided in the placement for a minimum of 14 days prior to the consideration of being allowed unsupervised time.</p> <p>The caregiver must also take into account the child’s maturity level, the caregiver’s familiarity with the child and the child’s comfort level with being home alone when determining if it is appropriate to allow the child to be home alone and the length of time the child can be alone. The caregiver must also provide all emergency contact information to the child and ensure the child knows how to follow safety practices.</p> <p>When leaving a child home alone, the caregiver must make sure the child knows where the emergency numbers are posted, knows the emergency procedures, and knows where and how to contact the caregiver.</p>	<p>No child under the age of 12 years of age may not be left unsupervised.</p> <p>No child may be left unsupervised overnight.</p> <p>A child in therapeutic foster care may not be left unsupervised.</p>
Key to the house	<p>The caregiver can decide whether or not to provide a house key to child in their care.</p> <p>If they decide not to provide the child a key, the caregiver must make provisions for the child to have immediate access if arriving home before others or in an emergency situation.</p>	
Public destinations without adult supervision Going to the mall, school sporting events, the movies, etc.	<p>Children who are 12 years of age or older may be allowed to visit public destinations without an accompanying adult. However, the caregiver must determine if that is appropriate given the child’s developmental and maturity level, history and other such factors. The caregiver also has to determine that the area is safe, appropriate and that the child has reliable means of communication. The caregiver and child should have a clear understanding of the time to be picked up or to return home.</p>	<p>Children less than the age of 12 may not be left at a public destination without adult supervision.</p>

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Curfews	<p>Once a caregiver determines that a child can safely travel in the community without being accompanied by an adult, a curfew should be established for that child. As with other decisions, the caregiver must take into account factors such as any legally required curfews in a specific area, the child’s age, developmental and maturity level, history of behaviors, extracurricular activities and the caregiver’s level of familiarity with the child. The curfew is to be in compliance with all city or municipality minor curfew ordinances. The curfew must be determined and understood by all parties and it is recommended to be included in the written social agreement or plan.</p> <p>A child must be provided with transportation home even when they have stayed out past curfew. If the caregiver is not available to pick up the child, other arrangements must be made by the caregiver. Refusing transportation home or reporting a child as missing should not be used as a punishment for exceeding curfew.</p>	<p>It may be appropriate to report a child as missing if he or she has not returned home after a reasonable amount of time past their curfew and if a current safe location cannot be verified.</p>
Attending School Dances	<p>School dances (such as prom) can feel like a rite of passage for young people and may be the first formal event in the lives. They can be both exciting and stressful but provide an opportunity for the child, caregivers and peers to collaborate in the development of planning for the event and engaging in communication about logistics, behavior and contingencies. Caregivers are encouraged to allow attendance based on reasonable and prudent parenting standards.</p>	
Dating	<p>Caregivers are generally encouraged to allow a child to have age appropriate experiences and relationships, which includes dating. Factors to consider when deciding whether a child is ready for dating include his or her age, developmental and maturity level and history of behaviors. Per DCS policy, the DCS Child Safety Specialist and the caregiver are to have or make arrangements for professionals to have age-appropriate conversations with the child about sexual education, safe sex and birth control practices, including abstinence. Caregivers should help the child understand healthy dating practices by assisting with recognizing healthy and unhealthy behavior and interpersonal skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the date • Communicate with the parent/guardian of the date • Consider asking that they double or group date in the beginning of a new relationship • Before the date, know their exact plans • Confirm the transportation arrangements (who driving, what they are driving, etc.) 	<p>Caregivers must be aware of Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.), Title 13, Criminal Code, Chapter 14, regarding Sexual Offenses.</p>

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Dating (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm pick up and drop off times • If date is driving, it is prudent to verify driver’s license and insurance • Will anyone else be there? Who else will be involved? • If plans change ensure they know to call BEFORE they make the changes. • Make a plan if the child becomes uncomfortable. • Give the child YOUR phone number • Get the date’s phone number 	
Babysitting	<p>A foster child wishing to earn money through babysitting must be at least 12 years old. Overnight babysitting is not permitted. Prior to being permitted to baby sit, the child shall complete a baby-sitting course through a local hospital, cooperative extension service agency, or other community program. (Training Option: American Red Cross offers an online Babysitting Basics course for a nominal fee.)</p> <p>It is recommended that when a child placed in foster care provides child care, the caregiver should contact him/her at least once during the time he/she is supervising other children and should make certain the child knows how to reach the caregiver or some other designated adult, in case of an emergency.</p> <p>A foster child is unable to provide care for any other foster child as the Arizona Short Term Caregiver Law requires foster children to be in the care of an adult.</p> <p>If a foster child is caring for non-foster children in the foster home, the child serving in the role of babysitter should be paid as the family would pay any other babysitter.</p>	<p>No overnight babysitting is permitted.</p> <p>Foster children less than the age of 12 are not permitted to babysit.</p> <p>The foster child is not permitted to provide supervision to any other foster child per A.R.S. 8-511</p>

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Employment Summer, after school, part time or full time employment	<p>A paying job can provide a teenage foster child with an opportunity to develop valuable independent living skills. Developmentally, the skills a child learns from having a job prepare them for adulthood. A job teaches responsibility, accountability, problem solving, organization, manners, professional communication, etiquette and negotiation skills. The Department of Economic Security, Rehabilitative Services Administration may be able to assist with services and supports https://www.azdes.gov/rsa/VR/ or the Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act of 2015, https://www.azdes.gov/main.aspx?menu=322&id=14583</p> <p>Allowing the child to accept employment is a decision that should be made jointly between the caregiver and the child. There are many facets to this decision that should be considered. For example, will working interfere with the child’s school schedule and the preparation of homework, will the working hours allow the child adequate rest, will their work schedule interfere with service appointments or visitation?</p> <p>If the caregiver is unable to transport the child to and from work, one employment consideration will be the child’s and caregiver’s ability to obtain an alternative means of transportation.</p> <p>Arizona’s youth employment laws (A.R.S. § 23-230 et seq.) establish the hours children can work and prohibit certain occupations in which they can be employed.</p> <p>http://www.azleg.gov/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp?format=print&Title=23</p> <p>Employment Restrictions for Minors 15 and Under http://www.ica.state.az.us/labor/Labor_YouthE_Occupational_Restrictions.aspx</p> <p>Hours of Employment: http://www.ica.state.az.us/labor/Labor_YouthE_Hours_Restrictions.aspx</p>	
Riding a Bicycle, Skateboard, Scooter or Non-motor- ized transpor- tation	There are no standards prohibiting children from riding a bicycle, skateboard, scooter or non-motorized transportation though an approved helmet and appropriate protective clothing are required.	

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Riding Motorized Skateboard, Scooter, Segway, etc.	Each municipality has its own ordinances or laws, so it is the responsibility of the caregiver to research and be in compliance with all applicable laws. Please refer to Motorized Bicycle: §28-2516 for more information about motor size and requirements. An approved helmet and appropriate protective clothing are always required. Refer to: Moped: §28-101(30), see also §28-2513; Motor Driven Cycle: §28- 101(31). a.k.a. motor scooter and Motorcycle: §28-101(34) for laws of these vehicle classifications. See the category of Driver’s License for more information.	
Driving with others, including other teens.	A foster child may ride with other people with the permission of their caregivers. This includes teens who may ride with other teens if the caregiver approves. Caregivers must ensure that they have talked to the child about the importance of safe driving behavior and discussed such issues as using seat belts, not texting while driving, prohibitions against the use of alcohol and drugs, number of passengers in car, and curfews. The driver should also be assessed for factors including having a valid driver license (which may include restrictions required by the Arizona Graduated Driver Licensing Law (GDL) https://www.azdot.gov/mvd/driver-services/teendrivers and having current insurance as well as other potential risk factors that are considered prudent by the caregiver. DCS does not require a background check to be completed for a child to ride in a vehicle with a friend.	
Obtaining a Driver’s License and driving a vehicle	When a child is a ward of the court, neither DCS nor any representative of DCS may sign for a driver’s instruction permit or a driver’s license. Neither DCS nor any representative of DCS accepts responsibility for the actions of the minor when driving a motor vehicle. The Department of Motor Vehicles requires that the following person or persons sign and verify, before a person authorized to administer oaths, the application of a person less than eighteen years of age for an instruction permit, a class G or M driver license or an endorsement to a class G or M driver license: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If neither parent of the applicant is living, the person or guardian who has custody of the applicant or an employer of the applicant; 	DCS cannot sign the application for an instruction permit, class G or M license. DCS does not accept responsibility for the actions of the minor when driving a motor vehicle. The person who signs the application of the minor accepts all responsibility for the actions of the minor when driving a motor vehicle.

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Obtaining a Driver's License and driving a vehicle (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the applicant resides with a foster parent, the foster parent; If there is no guardian or employer of the applicant, a responsible person who is willing to assume the obligation imposed by this chapter on a person who signs the application of a minor. <p>The person who signs the application of the minor accepts all responsibility for the actions of the minor when driving a motor vehicle. DCS does not accept responsibility for the actions of the minor when driving a motor vehicle.</p> <p>A.R.S. 28-3162 addresses the ability of the cancellation and release from liability of the signer.</p>	
Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)	<p>Use of an off highway vehicle (OHV) is considered a higher risk recreational activity; there are minimum standards which provide structure for safety and supervision for children to participate in this activity. One of the first questions caregiver's should ask is whether the child is old enough, big enough and mature enough to handle an off-highway vehicle. Consider the child's physical development, visual perception/ motor development, social/emotional development and reasoning and decision-making ability. Younger children should NEVER ride OHV's designed for adults. Additionally, whenever a child is being transported on an OHV, the driver and all passengers must follow all federal, state, and local laws when driving, including laws on the use of child passenger safety systems, seat belts, and liability insurance. Please refer to the following Az Game and Fish Dept. pamphlet for more information.</p> <p>http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/outdoor_recreation/ohv/atv_brochure.pdf</p>	<p>Younger children should NEVER ride OHV's designed for adults. Whenever a child is being transported on an OHV, the driver and all passengers must follow all federal, state, and local laws when driving, including laws on the use of child passenger safety systems, seat belts, and liability insurance.</p>
Photographs or videotaping for publication	<p>Children in care should be encouraged to participate in activities such as having his or her picture taken for publication in a newspaper or yearbook; receiving public recognition for accomplishments; participating in school or after-school organizations or clubs; and participating in community events. The child is able to participate as long as he or she is not identified as a foster child in the photograph or publication. Confidentiality requirements for department records shall not restrict the child's participation in customary activities appropriate for the child's age and developmental level. The caregiver can sign the waiver for the publication.</p>	<p>The child cannot be identified as a foster child in the photograph or publication</p>

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Privacy	Caregivers are encouraged to allow child age-appropriate private space and communications, with consideration given to developmental and therapeutic needs, safety plans and court orders which may impose some limits.	Developmental and therapeutic needs, safety plans and court orders may impose some limits to private space and communications.
Confidential Phone Calls	<p>Children in foster care have the right to make and receive confidential telephone calls, and have a right to privacy during such phone calls, unless prohibited by court order or instructions from the DCS Child Safety Specialist. A list of unauthorized persons is to be provided by DCS at the time of placement. To ensure the confidentiality of telephone calls, caregivers should provide an area away from others that will afford privacy.</p> <p>Caregivers may not prohibit or restrict telephone calls to the following: DCS personnel, probation officers, family members not excluded by court order, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), or other professionals involved in their case or care.</p> <p>Limitations on telephone calls to individuals other than those referenced above may be based on reasonable disciplinary measures, house rules, consideration of the rights of others, case service plan requirements, or court order prohibitions. For example, caregivers may develop policies regarding the number of calls and limit the amount of time.</p>	<p>Unless prohibited by court order or as instructed by ADCS personnel.</p> <p>Caregivers may not prohibit or restrict telephone calls to the following: DCS personnel, probation officers, family members not excluded by court order, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), or other professionals involved in their case or care.</p>
Internet and Social Media	The use of online social networking sites to communicate with family and friends is a typical practice for most people. Foster children are permitted to use email and the internet, including social media sites, with age-appropriate supervision by their caregivers. The individual child’s age and developmental needs are taken into consideration when establishing guidelines for use. If a foster child wishes to use the internet, including social media sites, the caregiver is to have regular and candid conversations with the child to discuss safe and appropriate practices. The caregiver and foster child need to regularly review expectations, availability, and rules regarding use of the Internet and social media. The foster child needs to understand that information posted or shared with others on the internet or through email is not private. Even with privacy settings, other people may be able to view this information. Caution should be taken when providing any personal information via email or on the Internet or social networking sites. A foster child is to be informed of the potential danger in providing personal information on sites.	At no time is the child to be identified as a foster child unless it is a self-disclosure by the child.

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Internet and Social Media (Continued)	<p>Children can be victimized through the use of the internet and as caregivers, close monitoring and frank discussions should be standard. If a foster child chooses to disclose his or her foster status, such disclosure is a matter of free speech which the Department has no ability, desire or right to control.</p> <p>The Department strongly encourages any person posting a foster child’s image to an online social networking site to use privacy settings in a manner which will protect the best interests and confidentiality of the child. At no time is the child to be identified as a foster child unless it is a self-disclosure by the child.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended, the caregiver and child to have a written social agreement that lays out reasonable expectations for both the caregiver and child when it comes to use, restrictions and consequences for social media access.</p>	
Cell phone usage	<p>A foster child may have a cell phone. There will be considerations. For example, who pays for the phone? Funds can come from any number of sources. The CFT team or DCS system should work together with the child and the caregiver to explore funding options. Some older children could buy their own cell phone. Some parents may be willing to buy a cell phone for their child while in foster care. There is no expectation for a caregiver to use their personal funds to purchase the cell phone.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the method of payment for obtaining and maintaining the cell phone before making a decision and insurance coverage on the phone is encouraged.</p> <p>A consideration as to whether the child gets a cell phone includes responsibility, available funds to purchase the phone and monthly costs, rules regarding the use of the phone and consequences when the rules are violated, other’s having access to the phone, etc.</p> <p>If the caregiver and child decide that a cell phone is appropriate, it is strongly recommended that an agreement be developed and signed by all parties.</p>	

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Cosmetology decisions, such as haircuts, hair styling, hair coloring, etc.	<p>If any cosmetology decision is mutually made by the caregiver, biological parent and child; then the DCS Child Safety Specialist should be informed by the caregiver. Remember that hair styles are often a significant part of the culture and heritage of the child and the child's family.</p> <p>Any child for whom the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies cannot significantly alter their appearance without parental or tribal approval.</p> <p>Non-ICWA children, age 12 and older can determine what style or cut they want to wear as long as there is no school or employment restriction otherwise.</p>	Foster children, less than the age of 12 are not allowed to get haircuts that significantly alter their appearance without the approval of the biological parent, which may be obtained by the Child Safety Specialist.
Ear and Body piercing and tattoos	The caregiver is to have written or verbal permission from the parent or legal guardian for ear piercing. (A.R.S. 13-3721(B))	<p>It is unlawful to intentionally brand, scar, scarify, tattoo or pierce the body of a person less than the age of 18, without the physical presence of the parent or legal guardian of the child. (A.R.S. § 13-3721(A))</p> <p>This law does not apply to the ear piercing of a child who has written or verbal permission from a parent or legal guardian. (A.R.S. 13-3721(B))</p>
Personal space and belongings	<p>Caregivers are encouraged to help children personalize their living spaces to express their individual preferences and to ensure that their possessions are kept safe.</p> <p>If the caregiver takes personal property as a consequence for actions, house rules or for safekeeping, the caregiver assumes sole responsibility for the property. If the property, while in the possession of the caregiver is lost or damaged, the caregiver will repair or replace the item with one of similar age, value and condition.</p>	
Personal Allowance	All children in foster care, starting at age 3, are given a personal allowance stipend by DCS. The caregiver will distribute the personal allowance to the child not less than once per month. The personal allowance is to be paid directly to the child or deposited directly to the child's personal account. The personal allowance cannot be used a "payment" to the child for chores, or as a means of reward or punishment. If the child is not of age or developmentally capable to spend the allowance on his/her own as agreed by the DCS Child Safety Specialist, the caregiver may purchase items on behalf of the child with the child's allowance.	<p>The personal allowance stipend by DCS is not to be reduced or withheld for any reason.</p> <p>The caregiver is to use a Personal Allowance Ledger to account for the monthly funds.</p> <p>It is recommended that a personal bank account be set up for the child.</p>

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	GREEN – RPPS APPLIES. Caregiver may make a reasonable and prudent parenting decision without consulting the Department in advance as long as the activity is developmentally and age appropriate.	RED – RPPS DOES NOT APPLY. Caregiver must contact the Dept. (DCS) for approval / consultation
Personal Allowance (Continued)	<p>Providing toiletries, toys or other tangible items in lieu of money is not permitted. Allowance money should also not include money needed to purchase toiletries. These items should be provided without cost, or additional money should be provided to purchase them. Hair and skin products should also be tailored to meet the needs of the child’s heritage culture. To ensure appropriate products are obtained, trans-racial placements should access resources to promote cultural ties.</p> <p>Additional money may be provided by the caregiver. The additional monies provided by the caregiver can within reason be used to pay restitution or reduced as a disciplinary measure.</p> <p>A child’s allowance money should not be used for certain educational or school items and activities that other children typically enjoy, such as prom expenses, school pictures, year books, team uniforms, trips, etc. The caregiver is to explore if there are DCS funds available to help defray the cost of these items or activities. If the caregiver does not have the means to pay for these activities, contact the child’s parent(s) or the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation for possible assistance.</p>	<p>If the child is DDD eligible and is receiving a month allowance from their social security benefits, please follow the procedures agreed upon by their DDD ISP team as well as any applicable Social Security Administration requirements.</p>
Religious Practices and attending services	<p>Caregivers must recognize and support the religious beliefs of the child and the child’s parents.</p> <p>If the caregiver is unable to attend the religious practice of the child, then the caregiver should engage the parent (unless no contact is ordered, or the parent is not authorized by the Court to have unsupervised contact) or the religious organization to ask for assistance in transporting or supervising the child while there.</p> <p>Before a child of another religion is placed with a caregiver, the caregiver should discuss potential conflicts with the Child Safety Specialist.</p>	<p>Caregivers cannot require a child to attend or participate in religious activities of the caregiver or against the child’s or family’s wishes. Caregivers cannot consent to a child joining a church or religious group, baptism, confirmation, christening or other religious event.</p>
In State travel with the caregiver.	<p>When traveling in-state overnight, for more than 2 days but less than 7 days, notify the Child Safety Specialist and your licensing agency of dates of travel, destination, and telephone number where you can be reached. In preparing to travel make sure you have the following: a copy of the court order placing the child in out of home care; the Notice To Provider; a copy of the child’s birth certificate; any photo ID if available such as a school ID; the DCS CHP Card; all medications in their original bottles and placed in a locked container for travel, and your contact list should you need to notify anyone of an incident or changes in your travel plans.</p>	<p>Permission from the DCS Child Safety Specialist must be received for in state travel of seven (7) or more days.</p> <p>For children that are also on juvenile probation please consult with the juvenile probation officer.</p>

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	GREEN – RPPS APPLIES. Caregiver may make a reasonable and prudent parenting decision without consulting the Department in advance as long as the activity is developmentally and age appropriate.	RED – RPPS DOES NOT APPLY. Caregiver must contact the Dept. (DCS) for approval / consultation
Out of state travel with the caregiver	When traveling out-of-state overnight, for more than 2 days but less than 7 days, notify the Child Safety Specialist and your licensing agency of dates of travel, destination, and telephone number where you can be reached. In preparing to travel make sure you have the following: a copy of the court order placing the child in out of home care; a copy of the child’s birth certificate; any photo ID if available such as a school ID; the DCS Mercy Care CHP Card; all medications in their original bottles and placed in a locked container for travel, and your contact list should you need to notify anyone of an incident or changes in your travel plans.	The caregiver is to notify the Child Safety Specialist and their agency of the dates of travel, destination and contact phone number if travel is more than 2 days but less than 7 days. DCS is to authorize out of state travel for travel more than 7 days. A court order will be required for all out of state travel for 30 or more days. Contact DCS Mercy Care CHP on how to receive out of state services, if necessary. For children that are also on juvenile probation consult with the juvenile probation officer.
Out of Country travel with the caregiver	THIS REQUIRES A COURT ORDER. If a court order is granted, the child will require a passport and all necessary immunizations. Notify the Child Safety Specialist and your licensing agency of dates of travel, destination, and telephone number where you can be reached. In preparing to travel out of the country make sure you have the following: passport, a copy of the court order approving out of country travel; a copy of the court order placing the child in out of home care; a copy of the child’s birth certificate; any photo ID if available such as a school ID; the DCS Mercy Care CHP Card; enough medication for the duration of travel; all medications in their original bottles and placed in a locked container for travel, and your contact list should you need to notify anyone of an incident or changes in your travel plans.	Out of country travel with a foster child requires the approval of the Child Safety Specialist and a court order, so allow as much time as possible for the Child Safety Specialist to seek the Court’s approval. For children that are also on juvenile probation consult with the juvenile probation officer. Contact DCS Mercy Care CHP on how to receive out of country services, if necessary.

The Arizona Department of Child Safety wishes to thank the members of a statewide workgroup representing Resource Parents, Congregate Care Providers, Kinship Care Providers, DCS Child Safety Specialists, DCS Unit Supervisors, DDD Management, OLCR Management, adult alumni of the foster care system, FAS Providers, Administrative Office of the Courts staff, Dept of Behavioral Health Svcs. Staff, OLR staff and Trainers, for the creation of these procedures.

APPENDIX 5: ADA DISCLOSURE

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. The Department of Child Safety (DCS) prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics, or retaliation or any other status protected by federal law, state law, or regulation. Reasonable accommodations to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity are available upon request. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy contact your local office. TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1. Free language assistance for DCS services is available upon request. Ayuda gratuita con traducciones relacionadas con los servicios del DCS esta disponible a solicitud del cliente.