

# Normalcy Checklist

## REMOVING BARRIERS TO NORMALCY

It is important to remove barriers that prevent children from participating in age-appropriate extracurricular enrichment and social activities (normalcy) as required by Preventing Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act P.L.113-183

### WHAT IS THE LAW?

It is important for caregivers to consider the child's:

- Age, maturity and developmental level
- Risks of activity
- Best interest of child
- Importance of child's emotional and developmental growth
- Importance of most family-like living experience
- Behavioral history of the child and the child's ability to safely participate

Caregiver is not liable for harm caused to a child, provided the decision was reasonable and prudent.

### Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard:

The standard is characterized by careful, nurturing and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety and best interest of a child, while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child through participation in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities

## REMOVE BARRIERS BY ENSURING:

- Family services does not requiring prior approval for a child to participate in an activity
- There must be an identified caregiver (a person) making normalcy decisions (even if child is placed in a group home or shelter)
  - Group homes and shelters are not exempt from
- Normalcy decisions must not conflict with pre-existing court orders
- Policies and practices of all approved DFS contractors and Foster care agencies must be consistent with P.L.113-183
- Caregiver making decisions consistent with reasonable and prudent parent standard

## FREQUENT ISSUES

### **Social Media**

- Caregivers should use RPPS to decide if the child is to participate in social media and to what degree it is allowed.

### **Driving**

- Caregivers and Permanency Specialists should work in partnership to assist the child in finding a driver's education program
- Support of the child's efforts to learn to drive a car, obtain learner's permit and driver's license (age, maturity, insurance)

### **Overnight/Planned Outings**

- The caregiver should use RPPS to determine if it is a safe and appropriate activity
- Background screening is not necessary for a child to participate in normal school or community activities and outings such as school field trips, dating, scout campouts and activities with friends, families, school and church groups

### **Babysitting**

- Can be 14+ (14-15 must have babysitting course)
- Caregiver must ensure that:
  - Babysitter is suitable for the age, developmental level and behaviors of the child
  - Babysitter understands how to handle emergencies, has telephone numbers (NIA/Permanency Specialist, physician, etc.)
  - Discipline and confidentiality policies for the child have been explained
- Babysitting does not have to be in a licensed setting

### **Vacations**

- Caregiver may take the child on vacations
- The caregiver will follow the travel guidelines outlined on the Placement Custody Notification letter

### **Allowance**

- Children must receive allowance per NAC 424.500
- Cannot be withheld as a form of discipline
- Additional amounts can be given as reward
- Providing toys or other tangible items in lieu of money is not permitted
- Toiletries are to be provided separately from allowance

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Disabled youth shall be provided with an equal opportunity to participate in activities

### **Children shall be given permission and encouragement to:**

- Obtain employment
- Have contact with family members as discussed with NIA or Permanency Specialist
- Have access to phone usage
- Have reasonable curfews
- Travel with other youth or adults
- Have his or her picture taken for publication in a yearbook or newspaper
- Receive public recognition for accomplishments
- Participate in school or after-school organizations or clubs
- Participate in community events

### **Child must be provided information regarding:**

- Drug and alcohol use and abuse
- Teen sexuality issues
- Runaway prevention
- Health services
- Community involvement
- Knowledge of available resources
- Identifying legal issues
- Understanding his or her legal rights
- Accessing specific legal advice

**Always be aware of WHO is making the decisions for children.**