

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON 1343 DAHLGREN AVE SE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, DC 20374 - 5161

NDWINST 1754.2 CH-1 N9 6 November 2007

NDW INSTRUCTION 1754.2 CHANGE TRANSMITTAL 1

From: Commandant, Naval District Washington

Subj: CHILD SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

Ref:

(a) OPNAVINST 1752.A

(b) SECNAVINST 1752.3B

1. <u>Purpose</u>. To established Region wide Child Supervision Guidelines for active duty military families within the Naval District Washington (NDW) Region.

2. Action.

- a. Change to reflect new subject line "REGIONAL FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM CHILD SUPERVISION GUIDELINES."
- b. Para 3.a. should say "The person providing supervision must be physically and mentally capable of safely caring for children."

R. M. HUDSON By direction

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> NDWINST 1754.2 NO2 19 Dec 06

NDW INSTRUCTION 1754.2

From: Commandant, Naval District Washington

Subj: CHILD SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

Ref: OPNAVINST 1752.A

SECNAVINST 1752.3B

- 1. <u>Purpose</u>: To establish Region wide Child Supervision Guidelines for active duty military families within the Naval District Washington (NDW) Region.
- 2. <u>Background</u>: It is the responsibility of every parent and or guardian in the NDW community to provide a safe and healthy environment for his/her children. The NDW Region assists families in fulfilling this important responsibility by providing facilities, services, and clearly communicating expectations regarding parental responsibilities within the Region.
- 3. <u>Guidelines</u>: While all children must be supervised, different degrees of supervision are required depending on the age and maturity level of the child. These Guidelines provide child supervision requirements for parents in the NDW Region. Violations of these Guidelines may result in a child neglect referral to the Family Advocacy Program (FAP).
- a. Child Supervision Guidelines: All children require varying degrees of supervision depending upon demonstrated maturity and levels of self-discipline and personal responsibility. The person providing supervision must be physically and mentally capable of safely caring for a children. The following outlines the basic requirements for child supervision in this Region.
- (1) Children under the age of eight (8) years of age must never be left unsupervised or unattended.

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- (2) Children under the age of eight (8) years of age must be closely monitored (within sight) by a parent or designated responsible person.
- (3) Children between (8-12) years of age may be left without direct supervision for reasonable periods of time. However, parents should provide indirect supervision such as frequent call-ins by either parent of child or occasional checks by adult neighbors or friends. These children should be carefully rehearsed in procedures to follow in the event of an emergency; e.g., how to contact parents, a responsible adult, and emergency services.
- (4) Children between (13-16) years of age do not require direct supervision during the day, but must have adult supervision overnight.
- (5) Children (17) years of age and older may remain at home overnight without adult supervision for one night only.
- (6) When direct parental supervision cannot be provided, the parent must arrange suitable alternative childcare (e.g. a Child Development Center, a Child Development Home Provider, a babysitter, or adult friend/neighbor, etc.).
- (7) Babysitters must be at least (13) years of age and sufficiently mature to provide for the children in their care. However, they must be at least (18) years of age to supervise overnight. Babysitters under (18) years of age would normally be limited in the number and ages of children in their care. Successful completion of a certified program (e.g. a Red Cross Babysitter Class, a FFSC Babysitting Class, etc.) is mandatory.
- (8) Children with special physical, mental, and emotional needs must be supervised consistent with their developmental level, but not less than the supervision requirements contained in the Child Supervision Guidelines for children of similar age.

a. Definitions:

- (1) Children are defined as unmarried persons under (18) years of age.
- (2) Parents are defined as biological or step parents, guardians, or the sponsor of family members under (18) years of age.

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- (3) Babysitters are defined as responsible persons, (13) years of age or older, entrusted to care for children and are required to abide by the Child Supervision Guidelines.
- (4) Supervision is defined as assuming responsibility for child(ren) and using reasonable judgment in providing for their care.
- (5) Neglect is defined as actions or omissions by a parent, guardian, or caretaker which includes, but is not limited to, deliberate or negligent withholding or depravation of necessities (nourishment, shelter, clothing, and health care), lack of adequate supervision, emotional or educational neglect, and abandonment.

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