



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
EUROPE REGION  
UNIT 29353, BOX 200  
APO AE 09014-0200

1 JUN 2012

IMEU-MWR-C

MEMORANDUM FOR Soldiers, Civilian Employees, and Family Members in the Army in Europe

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Child-Supervision Guidance

1. This memorandum provides child-supervision guidance and information to help parents safeguard their children (encl). This guidance is based on the child's grade in school, not the child's age.
2. Parents are ultimately responsible for the welfare and actions of their children. Failure to exercise those parental responsibilities may constitute child neglect. Parents must use good judgment and consider the physical, emotional, and psychological maturity of their child when determining the level of supervision the child requires. Parents should not give the degree of self-management and responsibility allowed in this guidance to children with an attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), behavioral problems, developmental delay, impulsivity, psychiatric problems, or other impairments.
3. Table 1 of the enclosure provides guidance on the level of adult supervision needed for children in different grades. Incidents of unsupervised children will be reported to the installation Family Advocacy Program (FAP) report point of contact (RPOC) (the military police), who will ensure that incidents are investigated. The FAP RPOC will forward cases of unsupervised children to social work services and to the garrison commander. Table 2 provides conversions from age to grade for home-schooled children. During the summer, children are considered to be in the grade they just completed.
  - a. Children in the fifth grade and below will have adult supervision at all times except as indicated in table 1 under the "May Be Left Outside Unattended (Including Playing)" and "May Be Left Unattended in a Car" columns.
  - b. Children in the sixth grade may babysit siblings over 2 years old for up to 3 hours if they have ready access to adult supervision. Children in the seventh grade and higher may babysit children for up to 6 hours if they have ready access to adult supervision. The definition of ready access constitutes a minimum requirement of availability of telephone access and the telephone number of each person designated as having an adult supervisory role. Children in the seventh grade and younger who are eligible to babysit may not pick up children from Child, Youth, and School Services (CYSS) activities.
4. Table 3 of the enclosure lists child-supervision criteria, including supervision levels, definitions, and supervision options for parents. Parents who need help identifying an option that meets their requirements should be referred to the CYSS resource and referral office.

*This memorandum is available at <https://aepubs.army.mil/>.*

IMEU-MWR-C

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Child-Supervision Guidance

5. The POC is Ms. Stauber, DSN 496-5629 or e-mail: brandi.g.stauber.civ@mail.mil.

Encl

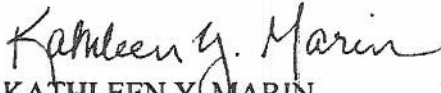
  
KATHLEEN Y. MARIN  
Director



Table 1 Army in Europe Child-Supervision Guidelines						
Age or Grade of Child	May Be Left Alone at Home	May Be Left Alone Overnight	May Be Left Outside Unattended (Including Playing)	May Be Left Unattended in a Car	May Babysit Siblings	May Babysit Others (Besides Siblings)
Newborn through age 4	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kindergarten through grade 5	No (note 1).	No	Kindergarten through grade 3: Yes, if in a playground or yard with immediate access (sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision (notes 2 and 3). The immediate-access requirement may be met by a minor who is qualified to babysit in accordance with this policy. Kindergartners may not walk to or from school or other supervised activities without direct supervision. Grades 1 through 5: May walk to and from school and other DOD-sanctioned activities alone. Parents must consider the distance to the school, school-building opening time, hours of darkness, and the child's maturity level (notes 2, 3, and 4).	No (note 1).	No	No
Grades 6 and 7	Yes, for up to 6 hours in a 24-hour period (but not overnight) with ready access to adult supervision (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).	No	Grades 4 and 5: Yes, if in a playground or yard with ready access to adult supervision. Yes, for up to 6 hours with ready access to adult supervision (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).	Yes, for up to 10 minutes (for example, when an adult is picking up mail or paying for gasoline) if the keys have been removed and the handbrake applied (notes 3 and 5). Yes (notes 2, 3, and 5).	Grade 6: Yes, for up to 3 hours with ready access to adult supervision (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6). Grade 7: Yes, for up to 6 hours with ready access to adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).	Grade 6: No Grade 7: Yes, for up to 6 hours with ready access to adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).
Grades 8, 9, and 10	Yes, but not overnight (note 3).	No	Yes (note 3).	Yes (notes 2, 3, and 5).	Yes, for up to 12 hours with ready access to adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).	Yes, for up to 12 hours with ready access to adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).
Grades 11 and 12	Yes (note 3).	Yes, for up to 48 hours, but an adult neighbor or adult friend must check on them at least every 12 hours. Minors must have telephone access to a neighbor in case of emergency and must know where at least one parent is (note 2).	Yes (note 2).	Yes (notes 2, 3, and 5).	Yes (notes 3, 4, and 6).	Yes (notes 3, 4, and 6).

**NOTES:**

- Parents must make an informed choice (for example, regarding heat, level of danger, amount of time) when carrying groceries from the car to the stairwell, apartment or doing laundry and leaving the child in the stairwell apartment.
- Adult supervision is defined as "someone 18 or older who has or assumes responsibility for the child (for example, a parent, guardian, care provider, friend)."
- Parents are responsible for assessing the individual capabilities of their children. Questions to answer may include "Can your child solve problems independently?" "Does your child think through to the consequences before choosing to behave in a certain way?" "How does your child occupy him- or herself when left with free time?"
- Ready access is defined as "as a minimum, telephone access and telephone number of each person designated as adult supervision."
- Children may have difficulty assessing dangerous weather conditions (for example, extreme heat or cold) and taking action to protect themselves.
- Red Cross or CYSS babysitting training is strongly recommended.

<b>Age</b>	4½ - 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Grade</b>	Kindergarten	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th
<b>Age</b>	12	13	14	15	16	17 - 18	
<b>Grade</b>	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	

<b>Supervision Level</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>School Grade/Age Range</b>	<b>Supervision Options</b>
Direct	Someone has line of sight and sound supervision and responsibility for the child (for example, parent, guardian, care provider, babysitter, friend).	Elementary school (kindergarten through grade 5); generally 5 to 10 years old.	<p>CYSS sponsored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child development center (CDC)</li> <li>• Family childcare</li> <li>• School-age services (SAS)</li> </ul> <p>Community resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-home babysitter</li> <li>• Nanny</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Host-nation CDC and SAS programs</li> <li>• Other host-nation programs</li> </ul>
Monitored	An adult is aware of the child's location and activities. An emergency contact is available at all times.	Grades 6 through 9; generally 11 to 14 years old.	<p>CYSS sponsored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clubs and volunteer activities</li> <li>• Instructional classes</li> <li>• Middle-school programs</li> <li>• Neighborhood Activity Homes</li> <li>• Team sports</li> </ul> <p>Community resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churches</li> <li>• Designated adult</li> <li>• Host-nation programs</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Scouts</li> <li>• Youth centers</li> </ul>
Monitored self-care	Parents have assessed their child's ability and allowed the child to monitor him- or herself. The child has an emergency contact available.		





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 21<sup>st</sup> THEATER SUPPORT COMMAND  
OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE  
NORTHERN LAW CENTER  
UNIT # 21420  
APO AE 09705

AERJA-NLC

19 March 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR Whom It May Concern

SUBJECT: Supervision Policy in Belgium

1. *General Principle:* Belgian regulations do not have precise rules for supervision policy. Our Courts and social work services work more on a case by case basis. The practice is Country wide even though the Social services are competent only for their Regions. The criminal procedure is the same for the entire country (Belgium has 3 Regions: Flanders, Walloon, and Brussels).

2. *Legal Basis:* UN Convention on the Rights of the Child dating from 20 November 1989, and the Belgian Penal Code, Article 423 to Article 426 provides the different penalties for child negligence and abandonment. Anyone who has neglected or allowed a negligence to happen will face a penalty amounting from 130 euros to 1,500 Euros and/or a confinement for 1 month to 3 years.

3. *Definition:* The abandonment can happen in a private and/or a public place. There is no specific rule for leaving the child home alone. The criteria is: can the child/teenager take care of himself. The Court approaches each case specifically. The social work services and the youth judge and the youth prosecutor are the principal actors of the child's negligence cases. When the case is not severe or sensitive, those authorities work together with the family before starting to press charges against the parents.

4. *Youth Prosecutor's Position:* We have contacted 2 youth prosecutors from Brussels and Mons area and they admit that the Belgian system is not very pro-active. In most cases, they press charges against parents or the custodian only when a problem happens.

5. *Babysitting:* The age to start babysitting children others than your family members is 16 years old.

6. Any questions, feel free to ask me at DSN 423-3608.

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE:

Marianne Schoonjans  
Belgian Attorney Advisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Schoonjans", written over a light blue horizontal line.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 21ST THEATER SUSTAINMENT COMMAND  
Unit 21420  
APO AE 09705-1420

AERJA-NLC

29 Novembre 2013,

MEMORANDUM FOR FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: Definition in Belgium of domestic violence and child abuse

1. Legal Base: The Belgian definition is based on a variety of International conventions, Directive and customary law. The most illustrative are the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child dating from 1989, and the definition of the World Health Organization ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)). The legal reference in Belgium is a Directive (*circulaire*) published by the Board of General Prosecutors on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2006.
2. Domestic violence: any type of violence including physical, sexual, psychological or economical committed among the same family members regardless of their age.
3. Child abuse outside of the family: any type of violence including physical, sexual, psychological or economical committed on a child by someone who does not belong to his/her family.
4. Feel free to ask for any additional information at [marianne.schoonjans.ln@mail.mil](mailto:marianne.schoonjans.ln@mail.mil)

Marianne Schoonjans  
Belgian legal advisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marianne Schoonjans", is located below the typed name and title.