



FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM

Normalcy

NORMALIZATION § 409.1451(3)(A), FLA. STAT. (2009), AND NORMALCY FOR ADOLESCENTS AND TEENAGERS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT 65C - 30.007(10) F.A.C.

Foster Children should be allowed and encouraged by the licensed out-of-home caregiver, and service worker to engage in appropriate social and extracurricular activities to promote the child's social development and maturity.

REQUIREMENTS

Participants must develop a written plan, of specific goals and objectives that promotes the child's participation in activities similar to those of non-foster care children. These opportunities shall not be withheld as a form of discipline.

PARTICIPANTS

- foster parent or caregiver, licensed out-of-home caregiver
- the child (13+), and
- the case manager

ACTION ITEMS

- Develop procedures to maximize the authority of foster parents or caregivers to approve participation in age-appropriate activities of children in their care
- Develop a written plan with participants, sign, follow
- Develop a list of age-appropriate activities and responsibilities
- Assist out-of-home caregiver and Services Worker shall assist the child in finding a driver's education program
- Support of the child's efforts to learn to drive a car
- Support efforts to obtain learner's permit & drivers license (age, maturity, insurance)

- Efforts shall be made to obtain automobile insurance
- If child wants to attend overnight or planned outings: The out-of-home caregiver must determine that it is safe & appropriate. The out of home caregiver shall:
 - Consider if there will be adult supervision
 - Be as diligent in determining approval for such events as he or she would for his or her own children, and
 - Use his or her parenting skills to familiarize himself or herself with the individual or group that the child wishes to spend time with and evaluate the child's maturity level and ability to participate in the activity appropriately
 - Criminal, delinquency and abuse/neglect history 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.
 - the services worker shall be available for consultation
- 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
- Permission and encouragement of the child to:
 - engage in appropriate social and extracurricular activities
 - obtain employment
 - have contact with family members
 - have access to phone usage
 - have reasonable curfews
 - travel with other youth or adults
- Assistance in participating in activities such as:
 - the child 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
 - participating in community events

REVIEW/ACCOUNTABILITY

- Written plan must be reviewed and updated no less than quarterly

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Disabled youth shall be provided with an equal opportunity to participate in Independent Living services.
- The child shall be able to participate in activities that promote personal and social growth, self-esteem and independence as long as he or she is not identified as a foster child.
- Confidentiality requirements for department records shall not restrict the child's participation in customary activities appropriate for the child's age and developmental level.
- Provided the age-appropriate activity is in a written plan developed and signed by the foster parent or caregiver, the child and the case manager, the foster parent shall not be held responsible for, or have the foster care license at risk, as a result of the child's participation in the age-appropriate activity § 409.1451(3)(a)3