

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b> <b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 8:</b> Out-of-Home Services <b>Section 23:</b> Extracurricular Activities	
	<b>Effective Date:</b> October 1, 2023	<b>Version:</b> 3

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## POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) encourages children in out-of-home care to participate in extracurricular activities to promote normalcy and the child's emotional and developmental growth.

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## PROCEDURE

Extracurricular activities for children in out-of-home care should be limited to those activities that are "reasonably safe." If there is a concern regarding the safety or appropriateness of a particular activity, the CFT should convene to review the proposed activity and make a recommendation regarding the child's participation. DCS may deny the request for the child's participation in an extracurricular activity if it is determined that it is not in the child's best interest.

The FCM will:

1. Discuss with the resource parent, using the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, the child's participation in the extracurricular activity. See 8.F Tool: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard for additional information;

**Note:** Resource parents and caregivers should utilize the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to carefully consider the child's participation in each extracurricular activity and determine if the activity is appropriate given the child's wishes, age, interests, abilities, mental and physical health, behavioral issues, and safety needs.

2. Ensure the resource parent has provided, in writing (email is acceptable) or by phone any extracurricular activities in which the child may participate.

**Note:** DCS will ensure the child's parent, guardian, or custodian; members of the Child and Family Team (CFT); and the court are informed of all extracurricular activities in which the child will participate.

3. Ensure the resource parent has current information regarding the child's history (e.g., medical, social, and prior participation) to allow the resource parent to make an informed decision regarding the child's participation in the activity;
4. Ensure any extracurricular activities the child participates in are:
  - a. Age-appropriate,

- b. Reasonably safe, and
  - c. Provide appropriate supervision.
5. Convene a CFT Meeting if concerns arise regarding the extracurricular activity (e.g., safety, age-appropriateness, or adult supervision) to discuss the activity and make a recommendation regarding the child's participation. See related policy 5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings for additional guidance;

**Note:** If the child's extracurricular participation involves an overnight activity or event, see policy 8.24 Travel and Overnight Stays while in Out-of-Home Care for details on required approval.

6. Inform the parent, guardian, or custodian; and members of the CFT of the child's participation in an extracurricular activity; and

**Note:** If the child's parent, guardian, or custodian objects to the child participating in the extracurricular activity, notify the DCS Staff Attorney and provide any requested information to obtain a court order.

7. Document information regarding the activity in the case management system.

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## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### Definitions

#### Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain a child's health, safety, and best interests, while at the same time, encouraging the child's emotional and developmental growth. See 8.F Tool: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard for additional guidance.

### Forms and Tools

- [8.F Tool: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#)

### Related Policies

- [5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings](#)
- [8.24 Travel, Outings and Overnight Stays while in Out-of-Home Care](#)

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## LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2-101.5: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#)
- [IC 31-27-3-18.5: Use of Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#)

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## **PRACTICE GUIDANCE – DCS POLICY 8.23**

*Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.*

N/A

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