

Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Fact Sheet

This fact sheet has been developed to provide clarification and follow up to the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting training video. After viewing the video and reading through this fact sheet, if you have any questions please consult your foster care licensing social worker.

The Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard can be found in MN Statute 260.212, subd 14. It was developed to remove barriers to normalcy for foster children, supporting emotional and developmental growth by permitting children to participate in activities or events that are generally accepted as suitable for children/youth of the same chronological ages or developmentally appropriate for a child. The standard is characterized by careful and sensible parenting decisions that maintain a child's health and safety; cultural, religious, tribal values; and best interest, while at the same time encouraging a child's emotional and developmental growth.

When applying the standard to a parenting decision, caregivers must consider the following factors: child/youth's age, maturity and developmental level, risk of the activity, best interest of child/youth, importance of experience, behavioral history of child/youth and the wishes of the legal parent or guardian, as appropriate.

In other words, the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard is saying...

1. **In all circumstances**, caregivers should always keep the placing worker informed about what is going on with the child in placement.
2. When thinking through if the reasonable and prudent parenting standard applies, consider that the standard is for the **benefit of the foster child in helping them achieve a sense of normalcy**. It is used to provide for the best interest of the child, it is not about providing assistance for the provider.
3. Caregivers will need to **get agency permission** when they plan to take kids out of state, when kids are involved in high risk activities and when any activity takes a child out of the foster home longer than three nights.
4. Substitute care is not covered under **Reasonable and Prudent Parenting**. A substitute caregiver provides care at the licensed foster home. Respite care is provided in another licensed provider's home. Anyone providing care for **more than 72 hours** in the home where the foster child lives will need to have a completed and approved background check and relevant training.

Example: If a relative/kin is coming into town to provide care while the provider is absent, the **Reasonable and Prudent Parenting** standard cannot be applied as this is substitute caregiving. The relative/kin will not have to have a completed and approved AWBS, if less than 72 hours, but they will need to have any relevant training **prior to providing care**.