

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
United States Army Installation Management Command
Headquarters, United States Army Garrison, Presidio of Monterey
1759 Lewis Road
Monterey, California 93944
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*** POM Pamphlet 608-1**

Personal Affairs

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

Summary. In accordance with AR 608-18, this regulation provides guidance on the safety and supervision of children residing on the United States Army Garrison, Presidio of Monterey, to include the Ord Military Community and La Mesa Village housing areas.

Applicability. This policy applies to all military personnel, their Family Members, civilian personnel, and all others residing, employed by, or visiting Presidio of Monterey, Ord Military Community, and La Mesa Village. A violation of this policy may subject military personnel to disciplinary action under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice or adverse administrative action. Violation of this policy may also subject personnel to criminal prosecution, civil liability, or termination of housing privileges on the installation.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent agency for this pamphlet is the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Army Community Service. Users are invited to send comments or suggested changes on DA Form 2028 to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Presidio of Monterey, ATTN: IMPM-MWA, Monterey, CA 93944-5006.

Distribution. This publication is available electronically, and can be found on the Presidio of Monterey website at <http://www.monterey.army.mil>, and selecting the Presidio of Monterey Intranet AKO sublink.

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* This pamphlet supersedes POM Pamphlet 608-1 dated 22 March 2013

1. References:

- a. Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6060.4 School Age Care Program, 23 August 2004.
- b. AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, 30 October 2007 (incorporating RAR issue date 13 September 2011).
- c. Headquarters, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center's Child and Youth Services Directorate Memorandum, 11 July 2000. Out of School Child Supervision Requirements for Elementary and Middle School Children and Youth During Parental Duty Hours.
- d. California Penal Code Sections 270, 270.5, 271 and 271a.
- e. California Welfare & Institutions Code Section 300.

2. Purpose. This pamphlet imposes requirements for the supervision and safety of children residing on or visiting Presidio of Monterey (POM), Ord Military Community (OMC), and La Mesa Village (LMV). This pamphlet outlines such guidance in order to:

- a. Protect the safety of children and young teenagers by ensuring they are not unsupervised on a reoccurring basis.
- b. Minimize installation property damage, e.g., vandalism that occurs when school age children and young teens are unsupervised.
- c. Safeguard others from risks associated with children and young teens unsupervised in housing/common areas, e.g., playing with matches or weapons.
- d. Reduce Soldier, Civilian and Family Member lost duty time due to child/youth misconduct through lack of supervision.

3. Parental Responsibility. Parents/guardians are ultimately responsible for the welfare and actions of their children, and failure to exercise those parental responsibilities may constitute child neglect. Parents must use sound judgement and consider the physical, emotional, and psychological maturity of their child when determining the level of supervision the child requires.

4. Definitions.

- a. Parent. The biological or adoptive parent, stepparent, guardian, or any person who is charged with a parent's rights, duties, or responsibilities.
- b. Child. An unmarried person under the age of 18, whether biological, or adoptive child, foster child, stepchild or ward. The term also includes an individual of any age who is incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapability.

c. Parent designee. A parent designee is a consenting, mentally and physically competent individual who is 18 years of age or older, or an approved baby sitter.

5. Supervision Guidelines. The following minimal guidelines are provided. A tool to assist parents in assessing their child's self-care competence is at Appendix A.

a. Newborns to children three years of age require close supervision and will be under direct visual contact. The supervisor must be able to respond to any emergency or threatening situation.

b. Children, four to six years of age, may play in appropriately designated safe areas, but must have immediate supervision. The supervisor must check the designated area a minimum of every 20 minutes to ensure the safety and whereabouts of the child, and the child must have immediate access to the supervisor. Immediate access is defined as within eyesight or hearing distance and ability to respond within 30 seconds. If these conditions are not met, the child is considered unsupervised.

c. Children, seven to nine years of age, can be allowed to explore their environment, but must also be afforded protection, and therefore must have access to adult supervision. Note that access is defined as having the ability to contact a verifiable, prearranged, responsible adult in case of emergency, and an adult supervisory knowing the location of the child. Working parents are encouraged to enroll their children in after school supervised programs, such as School Age Services or Stone Soup for before and after school care.

d. Children, 10 to 14 years of age, must be in a designated neighborhood area established by their supervisor. This area should be convenient for the supervisor to make regular checks on the child. Supervisors should have the child check-in if the child is changing locations. If the child is not mature enough to check in with a supervisor, the standards for younger children will apply.

e. Children, 15 to 17 years of age, may supervise themselves. They must be mature enough to notify the contact person in the event of an emergency situation. Parents are responsible for ensuring that the child knows proper emergency procedures, to include contact persons, telephone numbers, fire evacuation, etc.

f. In all cases when a child or youth is left unsupervised, a parent or an adult designee must be within the local area. Local area is defined as an area or location that is no more than one hour away by car.

6. Children Left Alone in Quarters.

a. No child under the age of 10 will be left alone in quarters.

b. Children, 10 to 11 years of age, may be left alone for no more than three hours during the day or evening.

c. Children, 12 to 14 years of age, may be left alone for no more than six hours during the day or evening.

d. Children, 15 to 17 years of age or older, may be left alone overnight but not for a period to exceed 48 consecutive hours.

7. Special Provisions.

a. Baby sitters.

(1) Children ages 13 years and older may babysit their younger siblings. Completion of the Red Cross Baby-Sitters Course is strongly recommended.

(2) Children ages 13 years and older may babysit for other than their siblings after completing a Red Cross Baby-Sitters Course. Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) can provide parents with a list of babysitters who have completed this training.

(3) If overnight babysitting is needed, parents are encouraged to use Family Child Care (FCC) providers or contact CYSS for information and assistance. Overnight child care may not be provided by anyone under the age of 18 years.

b. Parents who leave their children in the care of others will provide specific written instructions to the caregiver. At a minimum, these instructions will include how to reach parents in the event of an emergency and authorization to seek emergency medical treatment. A Special Power of Attorney may be obtained through the Legal Assistance Office within the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Building 358, Presidio of Monterey, California. The phone number for Legal Assistance is (831) 242-5083/5084.

c. On Post Facilities. No child under the age of 10 is to be left unattended in a public facility unless authorized by that facility; e.g., Commissary, Post Exchange, Porter Youth Center.

d. Travel To and From School.

(1) Children, nine years of age and younger, must be accompanied by an adult, or a child 10 years of age or older.

(2) Parents will not send their children, nine years of age and younger, to school more than 15 minutes earlier than the normal walking time and/or the bus arrival time. Parents that are unable to be at home to supervise their child's departure for or arrival from school are expected to arrange alternate supervision.

f. Vehicle Safety.

(1) No child under 10 years of age (or any child, regardless of age, if unable to exit a vehicle unassisted in the event of an emergency) will be left unattended in a vehicle at any time.

(2) Children, 10 years of age or older, may be left unattended in a vehicle for a short period of time (not to exceed 20 minutes) if the keys have been removed; the emergency brake is applied; and the vehicle is parked in a safe location. Temperature, ventilation requirements, circumstances and maturity should always be considered before leaving children unattended in a vehicle, even for brief periods of time.

(3) In accordance with California law, a child must be properly restrained in a child safety seat, booster seat or other restraint system in the back seat, until the child is eight years old or at least 4'9" in height. Children who are eight years of age or older shall be properly secured in an appropriate child passenger restraint system or safety belt.

g. Exceptional Family Members (those with physical or mental special needs) will receive proper care and supervision at all times regardless of age and circumstances. Parents must use good judgement and consider the physical, emotional, and psychological maturity of their child/youth when determining the level of supervision the child/youth requires.

8. Violations of this Policy.

a. All members of the community are encouraged to report suspected incidents of unattended children, child abuse or neglect to the Presidio of Monterey Police Department (POM PD) at (831) 242-7851/7852. Anonymous reports will be accepted; however, the identification of the caller is preferable.

b. Under California law and/or Army regulations, certain professionals are required or "mandated" child maltreatment reporters. Mandated reporters include medical practitioners (doctors, nurses), social service and mental health providers, law enforcement personnel, and child care custodians (teachers, Child, Youth and School Service employees, and Family Child Care providers).

c. POM PD will take necessary action to ensure the safety and protection of children on the installation. Action taken by the POM PD when children are found unsupervised is contingent upon the degree of danger in which the child is found.

(1) The immediate safety needs of the child or youth will be addressed.

(2) The POM PD will attempt to contact the parent/guardian and request that appropriate care be provided to the child. If the parent cannot be contacted, the POM PD will attempt to notify the parent's commander or supervisor.

(3) After one hour, the FAP (Family Advocacy Program) Social Worker/Case Manager will be consulted. If deemed necessary, the Monterey County Department of Social Services will be contacted at (831) 899-8015 and the child may be placed in emergency care.

(4) All incidents of unsupervised children will be investigated by the POM PD, and forwarded to the Family Advocacy Program. The Family Advocacy Program Manager (FAPM) will notify the Garrison Commander of these cases.

9. Resources.

a. Parents who need help identifying an option that meets their requirement are encouraged to contact CYSS at (831) 242-7197. CYSS has information on services available to them, both on and off the installation.

b. The Family Advocacy Program Manager (FAPM) at the Army Community Service, Ord Military Community, (831) 242-7653 is available to provide guidance to parents regarding this policy.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



OFFICIAL:
SUSAN M. KASTNER
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APPENDIX A: FOUR STEPS TO DETERMINE IF YOUR CHILD IS RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO CARE FOR HIM/HERSELF OR CARE FOR OTHERS

STEP 1. Does your child know the following?

a. Identifying Information

His/her full name	
His/her full address	
Directions to their home	
His/her phone number	

(Your child needs to know the answers to these questions in case he/she is lost, in danger, or if he/she is trying to direct the police or fire department to your home. Remember that some homes are isolated from main road. Therefore, directions are important.)

b. Important phone numbers

Police department or Federal police	911
Poison control	
Parent's phone number at work	
Neighbor or other person to call for assistance	

(These numbers should be posted directly by the telephone. Your child should always have someone he/she can call in case of an emergency.)

c. Use of the phone

Can your child operate the telephone?	
Does he/she know how to call the operator and why?	
What does your child say when someone asks if his/her parents are at home?	

d. Locks and Keys

Can your child lock and unlock the door to your home?	
How does your child gain entry to your home?	

(If your child carries his/her own key, make sure it is not visible. A child wearing a key around his/her neck is a sure sign that he/she let himself/herself into the home which makes him/her vulnerable to strangers.)

STEP 2. Have you taught your child what to do in the following situations?

- a. What to do in case of fire.
- b. What to do if he/she is injured.
- c. Is your child allowed to cook on the stove? If so, what would he/she do in the event of a cooking accident?
- d. If he/she is allowed to answer the door or play outside, what would he/she say if a stranger approached him/her?
- e. What would your child do if the power went off?
- f. Does your child call you when he/she gets home from school?
- g. Is your child allowed to leave the home to visit friends, or have friends over to the house?
- h. If friends are over to the house, do the parents of the guest child know that the parents of the hosting child are not home?

STEP 3. If your child is caring for younger siblings, ask yourself the following:

- a. Has authority been given to one child to act as the leader? Do the other children accept this leadership and obey accordingly?
- b. What form of discipline do your children use between themselves in order to maintain order? Is this form of discipline safe?
- c. Do your children get along with each other when you are not present?
- d. Are infants involved?

STEP 4.

Answer the following questions about your child:	YES	NO
Is your child afraid to stay home by him/herself?		
Has your child ever played with matches or other dangerous objects?		
Does your child have unexplained seizures, blackouts or show violent, aggressive behavior?		
Has your child told you that he/she does not want to stay home alone?		
Are you inaccessible by telephone?		
Does your child go easily to strangers?		

APPENDIX B: PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY CHILD SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

Age of Child	May be Left at Home (note 2)	May Be Left Alone Overnight	May be Left Outside (Playing) Unattended (note 1,2,3 and 4)	May be Left Unattended in a Car (note 2 and 4)	May Babysit Siblings (note 2 and 5)	May Babysit Others (Besides Siblings)
Newborn – Age 3	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ages 4-6	No	No	Yes, if in a safe (fenced) area with immediate access (sight and hearing distance) to an adult.	No	No	No
Ages 7-9	Yes, for up to 5 hours, during daylight hours	No	Yes, during daylight hours, if in a playground or yard with ready access (in person) to an adult.	No	No	No
Ages 10 and 11	Yes, for up to 5 hours, during daylight hours.	No	Yes, with ready access to adult supervision. During daylight hours, children in 4 th grade and above may walk to school/sports activities unaccompanied.	Yes, for up to 10 minutes if the keys have been removed and the emergency brake applied and vehicle is in safe location.	No	No
Ages 12-14	Yes, for up to 6 hours during daylight and early evening. An adult must check on them (in-person or telephonically) every 3 hours.	No	Yes	Yes, for up to 20 minutes if the keys have been removed and the emergency brake applied.	Yes, children 13 and older may care for siblings for up to 6 hours, but not overnight.	Yes, children 13 and older may care for other children for up to 6 hours, but not overnight. Must have completed Red Cross Babysitters Course.
Ages 15-16	Yes, for up to 8 hours, but not overnight.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, but not overnight. Must have completed Red Cross Babysitters Course.
Ages 17 and over	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- NOTES:**
- 1. Adult supervision is defined as someone who has or assumes responsibility for the child (for example, a parent, guardian, care provider, adult friend).**
 - 2. Parents are responsible for assessing the individual capabilities of their children.**
 - 3. Ready access is defined at a minimum as telephone access with telephone number of person designated as adult supervision.**
 - 4. Children may have difficulty assessing dangerous weather conditions (for example, extreme heat or cold) and taking action to protect themselves.**
 - 5. Red Cross Baby-Sitters Course strongly encouraged.**