



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 66TH AIR BASE GROUP
HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE MASSACHUSETTS**



MEMORANDUM FOR HANSCOM AFB PERSONNEL

FROM: 66 ABG/CC
20 Schilling Circle
Hanscom AFB MA 01731

SUBJECT: Installation Policy on Youth Supervision

1. The Hanscom AFB community is committed to the welfare of the children on the installation. Parents have the primary responsibility for their children's well-being and the attached Installation Youth Supervision Policy is written to assist parents to ensure the safety of their children. Before a parent decides on leaving a child alone, they must have an adequate safety plan established that includes whether their child is competent and comfortable with being left alone and if the child's emotional maturity is sufficient.

2. The following definitions apply to the supervision of children under the age of 18 years (pre-graduation):

a. Adequate Supervision: Guidance by an adult which meets the basic needs and protects a child on a temporary or permanent basis; may be provided on a temporary basis by a child age 12 years or older who possesses the competence, experience and maturity to supervise.

b. Lack of Supervision: A type of child neglect characterized by the absence or inattention of the parent, guardian, foster parent, or other caretaker that results in injury, could result in the potential of serious injury, or the serious threat of injury to another person because the child's behavior was not properly monitored.

c. Accessibility of Parent or Responsible Adult(s)/Caretaker(s): Parents (or responsible adults/caretakers) are responsible for advising children of their location and the estimated expected time they will return. Children should have the phone number(s) to contact a parent or designated responsible adult, as well as emergency telephone numbers.

d. Reasonable Period of Time: These periods are subject to specific principles in this policy. Criteria considered are the location and accessibility of the supervising adult or parent, length of time left alone, time of day, child's level of functioning independently, maturity, physical and mental health, etc.

3. All individuals, organizations, agencies, and departments affiliated with Hanscom AFB will report all incidents related to lack of supervision of a child immediately to the Law Enforcement (LE) Desk at 781-225-5000 or the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) at 781-225-6385.

e. The 66th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) is responsible for an immediate response to the scene where a child is allegedly unsupervised and securing the child's safety. 66 SFS will attempt to locate the child's sponsor or other responsible adult. In **ALL** incidents of suspected child abuse/neglect, 66 SFS will notify FAP and the sponsor's organization.

4. To promote safety and the well-being of children, Home Alone training is recommended for youths who are left home alone and Babysitter training for youths who babysit others.

a. Home Alone Training: Home Alone Training is designed to help parents determine whether their child(ren) may be ready to be independent, help foster family communication and safety in the home, and assist children with decision making and problem solving skills when home alone. Home Alone Training is provided as a take-home training, to be completed with parental interaction. For further information contact Youth Programs at 781-225-6043.

b. Babysitter Training: Red Cross Babysitter Training, or equivalent, is designed to provide youths (ages 11 years and older) with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide appropriate supervision and safety plans when babysitting younger siblings and other children. For further information contact Youth Programs at 781-225-6043.

5. Everything must be done to ensure the safety and well-being of all the children on Hanscom AFB. Failure to meet the minimal Youth Supervision Guidelines could place a child in danger. The ages specified are the maximum ages and are based upon the child's ability to demonstrate age-appropriate behavior. Children who do not consistently demonstrate age-appropriate behavior should not be given the same degree of self-management responsibilities.

6. Guidelines, contact Family Advocacy at 781-781-225-6385, or Youth Programs at 781-225-6043.



TAONA A. ENRIQUEZ, Col USAF
Commander

HANSCOM AFB YOUTH SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

The ages specified are the **minimum** ages and are based on the individual child's ability to demonstrate age-appropriate behavior. Children who do not consistently demonstrate age-appropriate behavior should not be given the same degree of self-management responsibilities. In all instances below where a “yes” is indicated, the parent(s) is responsible for using reasonable judgment and for any incident or mishap (considered preventable) that occurs.

Age of child	Left without sitter for less than 2 hours	Left without sitter for over 2 hours	Left alone overnight	Outside unattended- to include playing	Left in car unattended	Supervise siblings	Supervise other children
Newborn	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Age 5-7	No	No	No	Yes: within sight or hearing of adult supervision	No	No	No
Age 8-9	No	No	No	Yes: immediate access to adult assistance. *May walk to and from school.	No	No	No
Age 10	Yes: with planned access to immediate adult assistance	Yes: before base curfew with access to planned immediate adult assistance	No	Yes	No	No	No
Age 11-12	Yes	Yes: before base curfew with access to planned immediate adult assistance	No	Yes	Age 11: No Age 12: Yes	Yes: on a case-by-case basis depending on maturity of child and the child being supervised.	Age 11: No Age 12: Yes
Age 13- 17	Yes	Yes	Age 13-15: No Age 16-17: Yes; max 3 days with daily planned in-person check-ins by an adult and cannot supervise younger children				

*Immediate adult assistance may include telephone contact unless line of sight access or in-person supervision is specified

*Adult supervision means a pre-arranged agreement to assume responsibility for the child during a designated timeframe

*It is strongly recommended that the Home Alone take-home test training is completed PRIOR to a child being left alone for the first time. Contact the Youth Center for details at 781-225-6043.

*It is strongly recommended that the Red Cross baby-sitting training, or equivalent, be completed PRIOR to the first time babysitting (to include babysitting siblings). Contact the Youth Center for details at 781-225-6043.

*Per the 66thSFS, leaving your car unattended while running is illegal. Exceptions include warming your car in the driveway or utilizing an automatic start. Children will not be left alone in a running car.