

# DSS Policy and Procedure Guide

Division 03: Child Welfare

Chapter 01: Director's Policies

## Item 005: Foster Youth Extracurricular, Enrichment and Social Activities

Suggested changes send to: [DSS PSOA Mailbox](#)

Issued: October 15, 2004

References: Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC)  
362.05

Replaces Issue:

### Policy

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is committed to having children in out-of-home care live as normal a life as possible. To that end, all DSS staff will encourage and support caregiver efforts to ensure that youth in foster care participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities.

### Purpose

This PPG provides an explanation of the County's obligation to promote and protect the ability of youth in foster care to participate in age-appropriate activities.

### Definition

[WIC 362.05](#) facilitates the ability of caregivers to carry out their obligation to allow children in their care to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities, without requiring the involvement or intervention of the social worker (SW) or the court. Caregivers are authorized to make normal day-to-day parenting decisions, including activities such as going to the mall, slumber parties, etc. They may also allow participation in school-related activities, including signing permission slips if requested by schools. The use of Live Scan and California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) clearances are **not required** prior to allowing a child to participate those activities.

### Procedure

- All DSS staff having contact with foster youth or out-of-home care providers will be familiar with the provisions of WIC 362.05
- Social workers will make every effort to inquire of foster youth during visitations whether they have had opportunities to participate in age-appropriate activities. Documentation of those conversations will be included in case narratives.
- If the SW, or any DSS staff having contact with the youth or the care provider, has reason to believe that such privileges have been unreasonably withheld or hindered, the situation is to be discussed with the care provider. If the SW still feels the care provider has imposed unreasonable restrictions, the situation is to be discussed with the employee's supervisor, and the Program Manager and/or FFA director, as appropriate.
- Any actions or follow-up taken will be documented in the youth's case file. If it appears to be an ongoing issue with a particular provider, the incidents will be reported to the

appropriate licensing authority. If it is a County-licensed home, refer to [PPG 3-9-1](#), Licensing Complaint Process.