



NEED TO KNOW SERIES

One-Pager

Prudent Parenting & Normative Experiences: Supporting Youth in Foster Care to Thrive

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is a requirement set in law in the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014).



What is the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard?

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard allows caregivers to make thoughtful, sensible decisions that:

- Maintain a child's health and safety
- Support their best interests
- Encourage normal childhood and teenage experiences

This standard helps ensure youth in foster care can participate in everyday activities that support healthy growth and development.

These everyday activities are called normative experiences.



What are Normative Experiences?

Normative Experiences are activities typical for a youth's age and development, such as:

- School events and dances
- Spending time with friends
- Social media use
- Vacations
- Jobs or internships
- Learning to drive

These experiences help youth prepare for adulthood.

Why does it matter?



All youth deserve opportunities to:

- Participate in sports, clubs, arts, and social activities
- Build confidence, independence, and social skills
- Experience age-appropriate teenage milestones
- Develop a strong sense of belonging

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard reduces unnecessary restrictions and promotes healthy development, safety, and autonomy.

What YOUTH Need to Know



- You have the right to request activities that support your interests and growth.
- Your case planning team should include you in decisions and explain the reasons behind them.
- You can ask for help with transportation, fees, or equipment, when available.

What STAFF Need to Know



When making decisions, consider:

- The youth's safety and therapeutic needs
- Cultural identity and humility
- Whether a caring, attentive parent would allow participation
- The youth's voice and preferences

The goal is to support normalcy while maintaining safety and well-being.

Additional information can be found in [15-OCFS-ADM-21 Supporting Normative Experiences for Children, Youth, and Young Adults in Foster Care—Applying a Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard.pdf](https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/OCFS_2015/ADMs/15-OCFS-ADM-21.pdf) (https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/OCFS_2015/ADMs/15-OCFS-ADM-21.pdf)

