

2.23 Children with Self-Care Arrangements or Sibling Care Arrangements Policy

Policy Statement

We recognises that families may permit their children to travel home or to another activity with an older sibling 16 years or older. Under the written instruction of the family, the service will apply the following procedure to such circumstances.

Procedures

- ❖ The service will require that the parent provide the following information along with the consent to depart notification: by way of written instruction:
 - The date/s and times of departure
 - The child's destination
 - Expected length of journey to destination (time and distance)
 - Mode of transport i.e. on foot or bicycle; and
 - Name date of birth and photo ID of older sibling collecting the child
- ❖ The child will be signed out by an educator upon leaving the premises
- ❖ The parent will be notified (by phone, text or email) that the child has left the premises
- ❖ The parent will be asked to phone the service once they have been notified that their child has arrived safely at home or at their next activity
- ❖ The service acknowledges that families may use their discretion in determining the capacity of their own children to enter into self-care arrangements.

Definition

The Queensland Criminal Code 1899 (Section 364A) states:

- ❖ A person who, having the lawful care or charge of a child under 12 years, leaves the child for an unreasonable time without making reasonable provision for the supervision and care of the child during that time commits a misdemeanor. Maximum penalty is three years imprisonment.
- ❖ Whether the time is unreasonable depends on all the relevant circumstances.

References

The laws and other provisions affecting this policy include:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011
- Family and Child Commission Act 2014
- Child Protection Act 1999 and Regulations 2000
- Australian Government Department of Education Children's Services Handbook
- Duty of Care
- Queensland Criminal Code 1899

NQS Area: 2.3; 6.2; 7.3.

Policies; 2.2 – Statement of Commitment to the Safety and Wellbeing of Children and the Protection of Children from Harm, 2.4 – Arrivals and Departures of Children, 9.2 – Enrolment, 9.3 – Communication with Families

<https://det.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/family/Documents/pdf/pts-home-alone.pdf> (retrieved December 2017)

http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/australian_laws_about_leaving_children_alone.html#QLD (retrieved December 2017)

Date of Development	Reason for Modification	Date Ratified	Date of Review