



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER
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CCO 1755.1E

MCCS

SEP 17 2025

COMBAT CENTER ORDER 1755.1E

From: Commanding General

To: Distribution List

Subj: CHILDREN IN SELF-CARE AND/OR SELF-RELEASE

Ref: (a) MCO 1710.30A

(b) MCO 1700.29

(c) MCO 1700.39

(d) California Vehicle Code Section 15620

Encl: (1) California Department of Child Services Home Alone Checklist

1. Situation. In accordance with reference (a), this Order establishes self-care and self-release policies for children aboard the Combat Center.

2. Cancellation. CCO 1755.1D.

3. Mission. Provide a standard for the minimum age that children may be left in self-care and self-release from activities aboard the Combat Center, and to provide guidance on the expectations for caregiver responsibilities in preparing children for participation in self-care and/or self-release.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operation

(1) Commander's Intent. Parents, guardians, and other designated caretakers are responsible for the full accountability and safety of the children in their care, always. In accordance with references (a) through (d) this includes responsible oversight when deciding to participate in self-release or directed youth programs, and whether to leave children unattended in quarters, vehicles, or playgrounds, to include being alone overnight.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Parents, guardians, and other designated caretakers, prior to deciding to allow children under their care to participate in self-care, fitness, sports or other recreational activities, will consider the following: the child's level of maturity, frequency and duration of unsupervised periods, the child's knowledge of emergency procedures, physical or emotional disabilities, accessibility to parents, guardians or caretakers, number and ages of other unsupervised children present, age-appropriateness of responsibilities given to the child, and specific nature of ongoing child activities while unsupervised.

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(b) All children in self-care and home alone situations and activities will receive self-care instructions from their parents, guardians and/or caregivers. Instructions, at a minimum, must include caregiver's contact information, emergency procedures and telephone numbers (such as the use of 911), basic first aid, and evacuation and security measures.

(c) Children babysitting other children should complete the American Red Cross babysitter's course. Information on the course can be found at <http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/program-highlights/babysitting-child-care>.

(d) In accordance with reference (b), developmental standards, and the factors addressed above, the following chart outlines the minimum ages that children may be left in self-care or participate in self-release or directed youth programs and activities:

AGE	UNATTENDED IN QUARTERS	LEFT ALONE OVERNIGHT	OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND UNATTENDED	CAR UNATTENDED *	BABY-SIT SIBLINGS/ OTHERS	SELF-RELEASE YOUTH AND TEEN PROGRAM (YATO)	SELF-RELEASE (OTHER)
0-9	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
10-11	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
12-13	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES**	12 NO 13 YES	YES
14-15	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES**	YES	YES
16-18	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

AGE	Fitness Centers	DIRECTED YOUTH PROGRAMS	POOLS
0-9	NO	NO	NO***
10-11	NO	YES	YES***
12-13	NO***	YES	YES***
14-15	NO***	YES	YES***
16-18	YES***	YES	YES

* Further clarification may be obtained by reviewing reference (d); specifically, a parent, legal guardian, or other person responsible for a child who is 6 years of age or younger may not leave that child inside a motor vehicle without being subject to the supervision of a person who is 12 years of age or older, under either of the following circumstances: (1) Where there are conditions that present a significant risk to the child's health or safety, and/or (2) when the vehicle's engine is running or the vehicle's keys are in the ignition, or both.

** No Overnight.

***Further clarification may be obtained by reviewing references (b) and (c); specifically, the strength training guidelines communicate that supervision and proper technique is the key for any strength training routine. Children must be able to follow directions. It is also recommended that children complete a proper warm up and cool down, stretching, etc. Children under the age of 16 will demonstrate the ability to swim a minimum of 25 yards, with a recognizable stroke to be considered a swimmer. Non-swimmers 15 years of age and under will be accompanied by and under touch supervision of an individual whose minimum age is 16 years. Swimmers between the ages of 10 to 15 do not require general or touch supervision if they passed the swimming requirements. Swimmers age 9 and under will remain under general supervision of an individual whose minimum age is 16 years.

(e) Failure to follow the guidance outlined in this Order will result in referral to the Family Advocacy Program and, depending on the circumstances, may also result in notification to law enforcement and county child protective services.

(f) The Incident Determination Committee (IDC) operates independently of this CCO. Nothing in this Order is meant to restrict or determine the IDC's decision-making process. Non-compliance with these directions does not automatically result in a met criteria determination at the IDC. Nor will a determination that this order was not violated automatically prevent a report from being considered by the IDC.

b. Coordinating Instructions. The following definitions are provided for the purpose of this Order.

(1) Parent. The biological father or mother who is responsible for a child, or a person who, by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, has been declared the father or mother of a child by adoption; the legal guardian of a child; or a person in whose household a child resides, provided that such a person is authorized to act on behalf of the parent or legal guardian to that child, and who contributes at least one-half of the child's support.

(2) Babysitting. An agreement to care for another's children on an occasional basis, defined as less than 10 childcare hours per week, either in the babysitter's or the child's home.

(3) Playground. For the purposes of this Order, a playground is a place with a specific design to allow children to play there.

(4) Self-Care. When a child is responsible to care for himself or herself. Generally, self-care includes children who are responsible for themselves before or after school, during school vacations, and holidays. Self-care also includes when a child is permitted by his/her parent to attend activities without direct parental attendance.

(5) Self-Release. A situation in which youth of a certain age come and go from an activity without immediate adult supervision. This includes activities offered by the installation that allow children of a certain age to come and go with minimum adult supervision. A self-release activity or event is not a substitute for childcare, or the supervision needed by children in the absence of their parents/guardian.

5. Administration and Logistics. Directives issued by this Headquarters are published and distributed electronically. Electronic versions of Combat Center Orders can be found at <https://www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff-Offices/G-1-Manpower-Directorate/Adjutant/#combat-center-orders>.

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to all active duty, reserve, civilian personnel, and family members aboard the Combat Center.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.


M. H. CLINGAN

DISTRIBUTION: A

Home Alone?

If you are just beginning to search for child care, it may seem as though it will be years before you'll be able to leave your child alone. However, time flies, and before you know it, your infant has grown up and is in middle school. There may be a short errand you need to run or a day when your child will arrive home from school 20 minutes before you get home from work. Is it okay to let your child be home alone?

Although there's no sure sign to let you know when your child is ready to be left home alone, the following checklist may help:

- ❖ Would your child rather stay home than go to a child care or after-school program?
- ❖ Is he easily frightened?
- ❖ Is she responsible?
- ❖ Can he creatively solve problems?
- ❖ Would she spend her time responsibly?
- ❖ Does your child become bored easily?
- ❖ Does he always let you know where he is going and when he will return?
- ❖ Would she be at home with an older brother or sister? Do siblings get along?
- ❖ Would the older sibling resent caring for the younger one?
- ❖ Would caring for the younger sibling restrict the older child's activities?
- ❖ Do you live in an isolated area without close neighbors?
- ❖ Is your neighborhood safe?
- ❖ Will you or another adult always be available to your child in case of an emergency?
- ❖ Is a neighbor home to help if needed?

How would your child handle:

- ❖ Strangers on the telephone or at the door?
- ❖ Being locked out of the house? Fire?
- ❖ Arguments with a sister or brother?
- ❖ An insect bite or a skinned knee?

Before your child stays home alone, write out the house rules and put them in an easy-to-find place. Let your child know that he may change his mind and go back to after-school care if he chooses. Decide on a trial period to iron out the wrinkles and modify the rules if needed. At this time, you may decide it is best to put your child back into a child care program. Use the trial period to review house rules, first aid, and safety skills.

Consider establishing rules on the following:

- ❖ How long your child will be alone
- ❖ Which friends may come to your home
- ❖ Television—what programs may be watched?
- ❖ Food she may eat
- ❖ Using the stove, telephone, computer, appliances, or tools
- ❖ Leaving the house
- ❖ How she can reach you

Additional Information and Resources can be found at the California Department of Child Services:

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-care-and-development/parent-resources/home-alone>