



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND  
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER  
BOX 788100  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA 92278-8100

CCO 1755.1A  
MCCS  
MAR 16 2009

COMBAT CENTER ORDER 1755.1A

From: Commanding General  
To: Distribution List

Subj: CHILDREN IN SELF-CARE

Ref: (a) MCO P1710.30E  
(b) MCO P1700.29  
(c) CCO 1711.1B

1. Situation. Per reference (a), the installation commander will establish a policy for children residing on a DOD installation for self-care and children using activities and participating in programs aboard the base.
2. Cancellation. CCO 1755.1
3. Mission. Provide a standard guide concerning the minimum age that children may be left in "self-care" programs and activities aboard the Combat Center.
4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Parents, guardians, or designated caretakers are responsible and accountable for their children at all times, and are expected to have full accountability for their children. This responsibility includes ensuring that the children are safe and extends to such situations as being unattended in quarters, left alone overnight, participating in self-release or Semper Fit programs, and being left unattended in vehicles or on playgrounds in accordance with the references.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Before determining whether a child can be safely left in self-care or safely participates in fitness, sports or recreation activities, parents must consider several important factors. The factors include: established regulations, local and state laws, maturity of the child, duration and frequency of time without direct supervision, child's knowledge of emergency procedures, any physical and/or emotional disabilities, accessibility to parent or other specified or informed caretaker, number and ages of other children present without direct adult supervision, age-appropriateness of responsibilities given to the child, and specific nature of ongoing child activities while unsupervised.

(b) All children in self-care should receive self-care instructions from their parents, to include emergency procedures and phone numbers, such as use of 911, basic first aid, evacuation and security measures.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

(c) Children babysitting other children are strongly encouraged to first complete the American Red cross babysitter's course.

(d) Based on developmental standards and the factors addressed above, the following chart outlines the minimum ages that children may be left in self-care and/or participate in Semper Fit programs and activities.

AGE	UNATTENDED IN QUARTERS	LEFT ALONE OVERNIGHT	PLAYGROUND UNATTENDED	SELF-RELEASE Youth & Teen Program (YATO)	CAR UNATTENDED	BABY-SIT SIBLINGS	BABY-SIT OTHERS
0-9	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
10-11	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
12-13	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES*	YES*
14-15	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES*	YES*
16-18	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

AGE	Fitness Center Cardiovascular Weight Training	Gymnasium	Racquetball Court	Community Center	Youth Sports Program	Pools
0-9	NO	NO	NO	NO***	NO	NO**
10-11	NO	YES	YES	NO***	YES	YES**
12-13	NO**	YES	YES	NO***	YES	YES**
14-15	NO**	YES	YES	NO***	YES	YES**
16-18	YES**	YES	YES	NO***	YES	YES

- \* NO OVERNIGHT
- \*\* Further clarification may be obtained by reviewing reference (b).
- \*\*\* Further clarification may be obtained by reviewing reference (c).

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 stands in loco parentis 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 child care hours per week, either in the babysitter's or the child's home.

(3) Self-Care. Care when the child is responsible for himself or herself. Generally self-care includes children who are responsible for themselves before or after school, during school vacations, and holidays. Children in self-care are sometimes referred to latchkey children because they have their own key to let themselves into their own homes.

(4) Self-Release Activities. Activities offered by the installation that allow children of a certain age to come and go with minimum adult supervision. The Self Release Program is not a substitute for child care/supervision needed by children in the absence of their parents.

5. Administration and Logistics. Distribution Statement A-1 directives issued by the Commanding General are accessible electronically. This Order may be viewed at <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/manpower/ord/cont.htm>.

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to all Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian personnel and Family members aboard MCAGCC.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. ABLITT", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

R. J. ABLITT  
Chief of Staff