

## 2.22 Departures of Children with Self Care or Sibling Care Arrangements Policy

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



### Relevant Laws and other Provisions

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 (National Quality Standard) 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



### Procedures

The service will apply the following procedure for children who are permitted to leave the premises by way of written instruction from their legal parents / carers / guardians either on their own or with a sibling:

- The service will require that the parent completes an unaccompanied child form and provide the following information:
  - The date/s and times of departure;
  - The child's destination;
  - Mode of transport i.e., on foot or bicycle; and
  - Name and date of birth of older sibling collecting the child (if applicable);
- The child will be signed out by an educator upon leaving the premises
- The service acknowledges that families may use their discretion in determining the capacity of their own children to enter 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 misdemeanour. Maximum penalty is three years imprisonment.
- Whether the time is unreasonable depends on all the relevant circumstances.

## References

Home Alone: Tip Sheet for Parents (February 2015)

<https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/earlyYears/Documents/pts-home-alone.pdf> (retrieved May 2025)

Leaving Children Home Alone: Australian Laws (updated 28/11/2022)

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/safety/home-pets/home-alone-laws> (retrieved May 2025)

DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
August 2019	August 2019	September 2020	September 2020
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		May 2025	June 2025