

EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES POLICY AT THE TIME OF DEPARTURE OF A CHILD

This policy is to be used as a tool to help us in situations where we consider it unsafe for a child, as well as the parent, for the child to leave the daycare with the parent because the parent appears to be under the influence. Here are some suggestions and ideas to help if such a situation should arise. Should we find ourselves in this position, our instincts and common sense are our best allies.

First of all, it is important to know that by virtue of the Quebec Civil Code, when we have reasons to believe that the health and the safety of a child is compromised, we must act accordingly. Failure to act could be considered a crime. While it is our duty to act, we must also decide on how to intervene. Clearly every situation is different and must be treated as such.

A parent under the influence

How to judge a parent's inaptitude?

If by observing them and by their actions it seems that his faculties are affected by alcohol, drugs or medications and it becomes obvious to you that he is not sober. From the moment you come to this conclusion:

- Approach the parent by asking: Everything OK? From this, depending on the answer;
 - Express your doubts and discuss the situation with them, share your opinion diplomatically with the parent;
 - Offer him an alternative by suggesting he call their spouse, partner, a taxi, a friend, etc.;
 - Collaborate and try to reason with them;
 - Avoid confrontation with the parent or engaging in a physical exchange.
- If possible try to have another person with you so that you will have a witness.
- If, despite all these initiatives, the parent insists on leaving the daycare with their child, attempt to keep him occupied as long as possible while your colleague calls the police and tries to get license plate. Know that you cannot keep the child against the parent's will.
- When placing the call to the police, describe the situation with as much detail as possible (what condition the parent is in, what mood, license plate, make and colour of his car, description of parent and child, etc.).
- Later, you may determine that a call to Youth Protection Services is appropriate.

Safety

Beside's a parent under the influence, other situations could most certainly arise concerning the children's safety in the parent's vehicle.

For example, the absence of a car seat, an inappropriate car seat for the child's age or a car seat installed in the front seat:

- Share your concern with the parent, remind them of the road safety codes, offer him pamphlets;
- Grandparents are often asked to pick up the child but do not have car seats.
- Organize car seat safety clinics in order to make parents aware for long term changes.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Non-urgent calls to the police

MRC Pontiac : 819-648-2141

MRC des Collines : 819-459-9911