

WESTMORELAND COUNTY YOUTH DRIVING POLICY

Purpose: To assure all youth who are in the custody of the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau, upon request, have an opportunity to receive a driver's license to operate a motorized vehicle, if it is deemed appropriate. Normalcy, Liability issues, and insurance company demands have led to the formulation of this Policy.

*According to the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard and H. R. 4980 the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act: Each agency providing foster care or congregate care to foster youth must designate at least one individual who is generally on-site (caregiver(s)) to make decisions regarding social, extracurricular, enrichment, and cultural activities. This would include decisions about a youth getting their license and driving.

Procedure:

In order to obtain a driver's license, the following requirements must be met:

1. The caregiver will make decisions with regard to the youth getting their driver's permit and or license in accordance with the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard.
2. The caregiver should take into account the maturity level of the youth, the age appropriateness of this skill, normalcy, and whether or not the youth has completed a driver's education course (written or hands-on).
3. Once a youth has obtained a driver's permit/license the youth is required to follow the rules and standards set forth by the law.
4. The youth will arrange, pay for, and maintain their insurance. It would also be permissible for the caregiver to add the youth to their insurance and even pay the premiums if they elect to do so.
5. Caregivers' may choose to permit the youth to drive their vehicles.

6. If permission to obtain a permit/license or to drive is denied and the youth is not in agreement with this, the youth may file a grievance. It is important to note however, that until the youth is age 18, the person who signed the permission form at the DMV will be able to revoke the youth's privilege to drive, if that person feels it is necessary.

7. Once approved, If a situation arises where the agency feels that the youth is not making positive decisions and/or the youth's compliance with the policy is not being met, the agency will make a recommendation to the caregiver to revoke the youth's driving privileges at any time.

I, _____, have read and understand the terms and conditions of the youth driving policy listed above.

Youth Signature

Date