



**Army Child Development Services  
Questions and Answers Concerning  
the 10 Child Care Hour Limit Policy**



**1. What is the 10 child care hour limit policy?**

The 10 hour rule means that in their own quarters, adults may watch other people's children for up to ten child care hours per week on a regular basis without being certified Family Child Care (FCC) providers. Children from the same family count as one child. The rule is intended to differentiate those who wish only to help out friends from those providing child care services in their quarters.

**2. My friend goes to college six hours a week every week. I watch her three children while she attends school. Do I have to be an FCC provider?**

No. Although you provide care on a regular basis, you are not providing care more than 10 hours per week. Remember, three children from the same family count as one child.

**3. My friend changed her schedule this semester. For the next four weeks, she needs child care 12 hours per week. Can I still watch her children?**

Yes. Although you are now providing care for more than 10 hours and it appears to be on a regular basis, it is short term - that is, only for four weeks. You do not need to be certified.

**4. Four of my friends volunteer at ACS eight hours a week. Do I have to be a provider?**

Yes. Although each child is there only eight hours, you are caring for children from four different families for 32 hours every week. Therefore, you are providing both care on a regular basis and for more than 10 child care hours.

**5. My friend watches my child five hours every week. If I pay her to do that, does it mean she has to be an FCC provider?**

No. As long as the care does not exceed ten child care hours per week on a regular basis, your friend does not have to be a certified provider.

**6. I have to go to the field for one week. I go to the field about three weeks a year. Do I have to leave my child with a certified provider?**

No. Although one week is more than 10 hours, the fact that care is required only three times a year does not constitute "on a regular basis."

**7. My husband and I are going on a "second honeymoon" for two weeks. Do I have to use an FCC provider?**

No. Although two weeks is longer than 10 hours, this one-time event does not constitute "on a regular basis."

**8. I'm a mom who does not work outside the home. Sometimes my kindergartner goes next door to a playmate's house (whose mom also stays at home) for hours at a time to play, or the playmate comes over to my house. Counting evenings and weekend sleep-overs, I'm sure it's at least 10 hours a week these children are in each other's homes. Do we have to be providers?**

No. This is not a child care arrangement, but just the typical friend visiting friend situation.

**9. Where do I find out what the policies are on this installation?**

All installations follow the guidelines above. However, the Family Child Care Office will be able to provide you with more detailed information or information specific to your situation. Ask for a copy of the Consumer Bulletin, "It's OK to be Neighborly" which outlines the 10 Child Care Hour Limit policy.



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