



PRESERVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE
Welfare & Institutions Code Sec. 362.05

Assembly Bill 408, effective January 1, 2004, seeks (in part) to improve all foster children's access to age-appropriate enrichment, extracurricular and social activities.

Ultimate Goal

Ensures that every foster child's quality of life not be compromised simply by virtue of their foster case status. Foster children are to have access to, and be able to participate in, age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment and social activities.

The Law

Quality of Life: Establishes the right of all foster children to live as normal a life as possible and participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities (WIC 362.05).

- State and local regulations may not prevent or create barriers to participation in these activities
- Each state and local entity shall ensure that the private agencies providing care to foster children have policies that promote and protect the ability of children to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities
- Caregivers have an obligation to allow children in their care to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment and social activities
- Caregivers are expected to make normal day-to-day parenting decisions and are to act as a prudent parent in determining whether to give permission for a child to participate in any of these activities. In particular, caregivers shall take reasonable steps to determine the appropriateness of the activity in consideration of the child's age, maturity, and developmental level.