

## OM-17 CAMPER SECURITY

A camp should have written policies in practice that specify procedures and responsibilities for minors, including:

OM-17A: Release of campers who are minors to a parent or to persons other than the parent or legal guardian.

OM-17B: Checking on absentee campers at the beginning of the day or session.

**INTERPRETATION:** Standard OM-17A involves procedures for releasing campers to authorized persons during camp (for example, a visit) or at the end of the camp session. These procedures may include the policy that the camp will follow if a minor is not picked up within a reasonable time (e.g., supervision requirement and possible extra charges).

Standard OM-17B addresses “absentee campers” who are participants, but who are not present at the camp when the camp expects to assume responsibility for those individuals. The policies should specify the time that the check of the participants is done. For example, day camps normally assume responsibility for a camper at the beginning of each day, while resident camps assume responsibility for a participant on the first day of a session. The policies should also specify to whom the practices apply, for example, to campers transported by the camp but not to those who are delivered to camp by the parents.

The *ACA Accreditation Standards Resource CD-ROM* should be consulted for a sample release form.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written procedures; director/ staff explanation of procedures in practice.

### **WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED**



#### **Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs