

Overnight Sleeping Rooms Rule for 4-H Youth Development Department  
PRR Classification #  
PRR General Subject Matter

**Authority:** Department of 4-H Youth Development

**History:** First Enacted: June 9, 2006; Last Revised: N/A

**Related Policies:** None

**Additional References:** None

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1. Introduction: This rule was developed by the Department of 4-H Youth Development to ensure best practice guidelines when arranging overnight sleeping accommodations for adults and youth at 4-H programs. The rationale for this rule is to avoid situations that place adults and youth in compromising circumstances. This rule intends to promote a safe environment for both adults and youth at 4-H overnight functions.

2. Overnight Sleeping Rooms Rule for Adults and Youth at 4-H Programs

2.1 In assigning 4-H program participants to housing for overnight activities or events, unrelated adults should not share private sleeping rooms with youth. Youth should be assigned private sleeping space with other youth within a three-year age range. Adults should be assigned sleeping space with other adults. An unrelated adult should never share a bed with a young person. No individual youth under the age of 18 should be assigned to a private individual room.

2.2 If a circumstance exists such that rule 2.1 is not feasible, then local 4-H office may in its discretion allow a parent/guardian to choose one of the following options:

Option 1: The parent/guardian may sign a consent form for a youth under the age of 18 years of age to stay in a room alone. This form must be signed by the County 4-H Agent, County Director, and witness unrelated to the youth, parent or guardian.

Option 2: The parent/guardian may sign a consent form for a youth to be assigned an overnight sleeping room with an unrelated adult of the same gender. This form must be signed by the County 4-H Agent, County Director, and witness unrelated to the youth, parent or guardian.

Option 3: The parent/guardian may sign a consent form for youth to room with another youth that is more than three years older or younger. This form must be signed by the County 4-H Agent, County Director, and witness unrelated to the youth, parent or guardian.

### 3. Overnight Sleeping Rooms Rule for Dorm and Cabin Lodging at 4-H Programs

3.1 In assigning overnight accommodations in dormitory or cabin style sleeping situations, appropriate supervision must be arranged. Adults who are assigned to the cabins/dormitories should be counseled in appropriate supervision of the youth participating in the program. To the extent possible, youth participants should be grouped by age.

### 4. Compliance Guideline

4.1 Failure of Extension staff to comply with appropriate best practice guidelines regarding housing for overnight activities or events may result in disciplinary action.

**Parental/Guardian 4-H Overnight Sleeping Room Rule Consent Form**

Authorization to Consent to Alternative Overnight Sleeping Room Rule

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_ County, am the custodial parent having legal custody of \_\_\_\_\_, a minor child, age \_\_\_\_\_, born \_\_\_\_\_. I authorize my child to be assigned an overnight sleeping room in one of the following options: (Initial the authorized option)

\_\_\_\_\_ Option 1: The parent/guardian may sign a consent form for a youth under the age of 18 years of age to stay in a room alone. This form must be signed by the County 4-H Agent, County Director, and witness unrelated to the youth, parent or guardian.

\_\_\_\_\_ Option 2: The parent/guardian may sign a consent form for a youth to be assigned an overnight sleeping room with an unrelated adult of the same gender. This form must be signed by the County 4-H Agent, County Director, and witness unrelated to the youth, parent or guardian.

\_\_\_\_\_ Option 3: The parent/guardian may sign a consent form for youth to room with another youth that is more than three years older or younger. This form must be signed by the County 4-H Agent, County Director, and witness unrelated to the youth, parent or guardian.

Custodial Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

County 4-H Agent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

County Director Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_