**Policy Critique Paper**

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This paper will explore the use and effectiveness of the policy within the agency. The paper will discuss the pros and cons and how the policy impacts clients, staff, and faculty. The policy will be critiqued to see if it will be beneficial or need to be modified in any way. One policy that is important in the agency is the no unsupervised internet policy.

The pros of the no unsupervised internet policy keep kids from connecting to dangerous or risk-averse pages. It creates a safe environment for them and their peers. The policy helps secure anonymity /confidentiality within the shelter (kids can not reveal to outsiders who is here at the time). It helps protect the kids from outside influences or communication that could compromise the staff or youth. (Loudoun County Youth Shelter-Grafton).

The cons of the no unsupervised internet policy are kids tend to struggle with a lack of routines connecting the way they did outside. This is not necessarily a con, but rather an opportunity for more genuine in-person engagement which can be uncomfortable. Another con is the lack of privacy. Since the kids are being monitored with internet use, they often feel like they have no privacy to search for anything. Phone use is prohibited on the floor due to youth safety. Medication is distributed to youth only by Med trained staff (Youth safety training minimizes errors and licensing requirements) (Loudoun County Youth Shelter- Grafton).

The use of the no unsupervised internet policy is beneficial because it helps ensure the safety of internet use for children. It helps keep children from communicating with outside influences, which can potentially put staff and youth at risk. The children at the shelter are strictly monitored and should only use the internet if it is school-related or if the staff allows the children to use it supervised. Many agencies with youth, should consider using this policy because it keeps children safe.

The effectiveness of the no unsupervised internet policy is highly effective because there have been no incidents at the Loudon County Youth shelter with inappropriate internet use. Many of the staff and faculty have been trained. The staff monitors the children's every move that way an accident like this does not happen.

In conclusion, the no unsupervised internet policy is a great way to protect not only the agency but also the children that reside within the agency. Any use of technology while supervising children is not allowed. That can cause a hazard because that gives the children the idea that they can go on any site that is not appropriate. Every agency such as a youth shelter, group home, foster care, and adoption agencies should have this policy set in place. The policy creates a haven for children and peers. It also protects confidentiality to children, staff, and faculty from outside influences.

References

“Loudoun County Youth Shelter.” *Grafton*, 14 Dec. 2020, [www.grafton.org/about-us/services/lcys/](http://www.grafton.org/about-us/services/lcys/).