

# Practice Alert



Date:	5.26.22	PA#:
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Issued by: Kate Watson, Court Engagement & Permanency Manager

## Great Circle – Meramec Adventure Learning Ranch

In previous years, youth have been able to participate in the Great Circle – Meramec Adventure Learning Ranch whether through participation while in residential care or through a sibling camp held during the summer. At this time, due to several restrictions, youth will not be permitted to participate in overnight activities at the Great Circle – Meramec Adventure Learning Ranch. Youth may participate in daily activities only.

It has come to our attention, some circuits have been provided with a motion and order asking courts to enter an order authorizing overnight stays at the ranch. Staff are **NOT TO REQUEST** an order authorizing overnight participation and DLS will not be assisting in the filing of any motions. If you are asked to file these motions and orders with the court, **DO NOT FILE** the motion and order with the court and **DO NOT ASK THE JO TO FILE IT**. Children in our custody are not authorized to attend the camp overnight. If you receive such a request, please notify your local DLS office and send a referral.

Please be advised that Children’s Division staff are not authorized to sign the Meramec Adventure Learning Ranch Participant Agreement/Release that has been circulated and disseminated in several offices around the state.

This agreement purports to give Great Circle authority to seek medical attention that is not authorized. It also provides that children in our custody may be photographed and videotaped and such pictures and videos may be used for Great Circle marketing purposes.

In the release section, you are asked to sign on behalf of the individual child and release all liability of Great Circle for any and all risks and injuries. Staff do not have authority to execute this document or these types of documents on behalf of children in our custody. Finally, if staff were to sign this waiver you would be agreeing to “accept financial responsibility for any medical expenses and/or loss of income not covered by [the child’s] insurance policy” that occurs as a result of his/her participation in this program.

If Great Circle, another member of the Family Support Team, or anyone else asks you to sign this document, please **DO NOT** sign the document and immediately refer the matter to your respective DLS office. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your DLS office for assistance.

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