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Letters: Minors on board

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Having flown as a flight attendant for over 15 years and being a mother of two myself, I think I am qualified to judge how the airlines handle unaccompanied minors ("Minors flying alone face inconsistent policies," Travel, Dec. 2). Every effort is made to assure the child's safety and comfort.

Granted, there are times when the system is overwhelmed. Heavily booked flights and tightened schedules have added to the challenge. The airlines themselves have instituted some safeguards such as not booking minors on the last flight of the day and requiring identification for adults who meet the child. Overall, given the demands placed on their staff, I think the airlines and their employees do an excellent job of transporting children.

Most airlines now have fees to help cover the cost of the extra care. However, there are also agencies that can be contracted to assist and accompany not only minors but older passengers and persons who may need help due to physical or mental impairments. One such agency is called Flying Companions.

- Mary Lahti

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