

Child Supervision Guidelines

The ultimate responsibility for the safety, care, well being, and behavior of dependent children remains with the parent or caregiver, whether they are present to personally supervise them or not.

The age of the child is not the only factor that should be considered when children are left alone. Other factors include the maturity of the child, emotional health factors, the child's physical or cognitive limitations.

Age of Child	Left Alone for Two Hours or Less	Left Alone for More Than Two Hours	Left Alone Overnight	Outside Unattended	Left In Car Unattended for limited time	Child Provides Care For Other Children
Newborn Through Age 4	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES, except in hot or cold weather; must be in view of caregiver and in a restraint; keys removed and emergency brake applied	NO
Age 5 Through Age 6	NO	NO	NO	YES, playground or yard with immediate access (visual sight or hearing distance) to supervision	YES, except in hot or cold weather; must be in view of caregiver and in a restraint; keys removed and emergency brake applied	NO
Age 7 Through Age 8	NO	NO	NO	YES, with access to supervision	YES, except in hot or cold weather, keys removed and emergency brake applied	NO
Age 9	YES during daytime hours	NO	NO	YES	YES, keys removed and emergency brake applied	NO
Age 10 Through Age 11	YES, with ready access (phone number to an adult supervisor)	YES during hours before curfew	NO	YES	YES, keys removed and emergency brake applied	NO
Age 12 Through Age 14	YES	YES during hours before curfew	NO	YES	YES	YES (Child Care classes recommended)
Age 15 Through High School Graduation	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

In all instances above where “YES” is indicated, the parent is responsible for using reasonable judgment and for any incident or mishap considered preventable which occurs. Caution should be taken in leaving 15-17 year olds alone overnight.