

HOME ALONE GUIDELINES FOR KIDS



One of the best ways to keep your kids safe is for them to be supervised by an adult or another caregiver. You should always follow the guidelines below. If you do not follow these rules, Child Protection social workers may get involved.

SUPERVISION GUIDELINES:

Under 8 years old

Should never be left alone.

8 to 10 years old

Can be left alone for less than 3 hours.

11 to 13 years old

Can be left alone for less than 12 hours.

14 and 15 years old

Can be left alone for less than 24 hours.

16 and 17 years old

Can be left alone for 24 hours or more if they have an emergency plan.

Kids under age 11 should never babysit other kids.

For kids ages 11 and up, the same time limits above apply to them. For example, a 12-year-old kid cannot babysit a 4-year-old for more than 12 hours.

Safety tips:

- Always lock up guns or remove them from the home.
- Post a phone number to call if your kids have an emergency.
- Let neighbors know your kids are home alone.
- Call or text your kid several times while you're gone.
- Teach your child how to lock doors and windows.
- Make an emergency plan with your child in case they need to leave your home.
- Let your kids know what items they can and can't play with while you're gone (ex. oven, kitchen knives, etc.).

Other factors that impact when children can be left alone includes child's age, mental ability, maturity level, accessibility of the parent, guardian, or designated caretaker to a child by phone and/or in person.

For more information, visit www.DakotaCounty.us (search "child supervision")

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