




CHILD SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE LEAVING A CHILD HOME ALONE:

-  Age and maturity, emotional health, the child's physical or cognitive abilities, length of time alone, time of day or night, whether the child will be expected to supervise other children, location and safety of neighborhood, frequency of being left alone, and how far a parent or other adult would be from home.
-  A parent or caregiver is responsible for the safety, care, well-being, and behavior of their children, whether they are present to supervise them or not.
-  In all instances below where "yes" is indicated, the parent is ultimately responsible for using sound judgment.

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 brief time (10-15 minutes)	Child Provides Care For Other Children
Newborn - Age 4	NO	NO	NO	NO	Caution! Dangerous in temps over 72° F. or under 32° F; must be in view of caregiver and in a restraint; keys removed, door locked and emergency brake applied	NO
Age 5- 6	NO	NO	NO	YES Playground or yard within visual sight or hearing distance to supervision	Caution! Dangerous in temps over 72° F. or under 32° F; must be in view of caregiver and in a restraint; keys removed and emergency brake applied	NO
Age 7 - 8	NO	NO	NO	YES Parent or caregiver must be available (visual sight or hearing distance)	Caution! Dangerous in temps over 72° F. or under 32° F; must be in view of caregiver; 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 - 11	YES (During daylight hours, with ready access to an adult supervisor)	YES (During daylight hours, not to be alone during sleeping hours)	NO	YES	YES (Keys removed and emergency brake applied)	NO
Age 12 - 14	YES	YES (During hours before curfew)	NO	YES	YES	YES (Child care classes recommended)
Age 15 - 18	YES	YES	Caution! Assess your child's level of maturity and responsibility	YES	YES	YES