

The following is an informational pamphlet prepared by Blue Earth County Child and Family Services. It is intended to provide basic information and laws for residents of Blue Earth County.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

*Blue Earth County
Child and Family Services
410 S. Fifth Street
Mankato, MN 56002-3526*

Phone: (507) 304-4444

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410 S. 5th St.
Mankato, MN 56002-3526



HOME ALONE: How Old Is Old Enough?



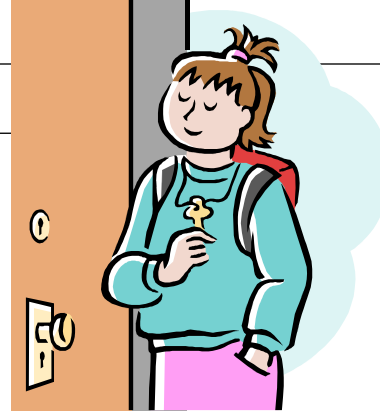
*Minnesota Laws
for Supervision
of Children*



How Old is Old Enough?

As a parent, you often wonder at what age your child can be left unsupervised or can babysit other children. The following are some items to consider for leaving your child unattended or allowing them to babysit other children.

- H The age, maturity, and confidence of your child.
- H The availability of parent, guardian, or caretaker by phone or in person.
- H Child's awareness of how to react to an emergency situation which may include a fire, severe weather, injury to self or others, etc.
- H The health status of your child.
- H Your child's awareness of the dangers of appliance use (stove, iron) or unusual hazards in the home.
- H What is your child's reaction to being left alone?
- H What is your child's reaction to the babysitter?



Age-Specific Laws

- ☑ Children 7 years of age and younger should not be left alone for any period of time.
- ☑ Children 8 to 10 years of age should not be left alone for more than 3 hours.
- ☑ Children 11 to 13 years of age should not be left alone for more than 12 hours.
- ☑ Children 14 to 15 years of age should not be left alone for more than 24 hours.
- ☑ Children 16 to 17 years of age may be left alone for more than 24 hours with an established emergency plan.

Supervision by Older Children

- ☑ A child age 11 to 15 years of age may babysit for the same length of time for their age listed to the left.
- ☑ An adolescent 16 to 17 years of age may babysit for younger children for more than 24 hours; must have adequate adult backup supervision.
- ☑ Consider enrolling your child in a babysitting clinic. Check your community education booklet or call your child's school.