## Guidelines for Leaving Kids Home Alone

### Age Appropriate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 &amp; under</td>
<td>Should not be left alone for any period of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10 years old</td>
<td>Should not be left alone for more than 1 1/2 hours &amp; only during daylight and early evening hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12 years old</td>
<td>May be left alone for up to 3 hours but not late at night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15 years old</td>
<td>May be left unsupervised, but not overnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17 years old</td>
<td>May be left unsupervised (in some cases, for up to two consecutive overnight periods).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### By State

- **Alabama**: None
- **Alaska**: Unknown
- **Arizona**: None
- **Arkansas**: None
- **California**: None
- **Colorado**: 12*
- **Connecticut**: None
- **Delaware**: 12*
- **Florida**: None
- **Georgia**: 8*
- **Hawaii**: None
- **Idaho**: None
- **Illinois**: 14
- **Indiana**: None
- **Iowa**: None
- **Kansas**: 6*
- **Kentucky**: Unknown
- **Louisiana**: None
- **Maine**: None
- **Maryland**: 8
- **Massachusetts**: None
- **Michigan**: 11*
- **Minnesota**: None
- **Mississippi**: None
- **Missouri**: 12*
- **Montana**: None
- **Nebraska**: None
- **Nevada**: None
- **New Hampshire**: None
- **New Jersey**: None
- **New Mexico**: None
- **New York**: None
- **North Carolina**: None
- **North Dakota**: 6*
- **Ohio**: None
- **Oklahoma**: None
- **Oregon**: None
- **Pennsylvania**: Unknown
- **Rhode Island**: None
- **South Carolina**: None
- **South Dakota**: None
- **Tennessee**: Unknown
- **Texas**: None
- **Utah**: None
- **Vermont**: Unknown
- **Virginia**: None
- **Washington**: 10*
- **West Virginia**: Unknown
- **Wisconsin**: None
- **Wyoming**: Unknown

* = suggested age, not legal requirement

### Safety Tips:

- Things to memorize: Full name, address, telephone number.
- Post an emergency list - local, long distance numbers to call in case of emergency.
- Let neighbors know that your child may be home alone.
- Call the child several times while you are away.
- Teach your child how to lock windows and doors.
- Tell your child not to go into other people’s homes (neighbors included) without your permission.
- Designate a safe house to run to if the child feels like he/she is in danger.
- Teach children kitchen safety and what is/is not okay when you are not at home with them.

[Source: www.thirtyhandmadedays.com](http://www.thirtyhandmadedays.com)