

DAKOTA COUNTY CRITERIA FOR CHILDREN BEING HOME ALONE

- Children age 7 and younger cannot be left alone for any period of time.
- Children ages 8–10 can be left home alone for up to three hours.
- Children ages 11–13 can be left alone up to 12 hours.
- Children ages 14–15 can be left alone up to 24 hours.

Children ages 16–17 may be left alone for more than 24 hours with a plan in place concerning how to respond to an emergency.



BABYSITTING GUIDELINES

Dakota County accepts the following guidelines for older children providing supervision to younger children:

- Children under age 11 should not provide child care.
- Children ages 11–15 who are placed in a child care role are subject to the same time restrictions of being left alone as listed above.

Children ages 16 – 17 may be placed in a child care role for more than 24 hours with adequate adult back up supervision.

For more information, please visit the Dakota County website:

[Dakota County Child Supervision](https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/HealthFamily/Parenting/Supervision)

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