

# Washington County (Oregon) Law Library

## LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE

**DISCLAIMER:** *It is against state law for library staff members to engage in any conduct that might constitute the unauthorized practice of law (ORS 9.160 to 9.166). They may not interpret statutes, cases or regulations, perform legal research, recommend or assist in the preparation of forms, or advise patrons regarding their legal rights. They may, however, assist patrons in locating materials or links that would aid in individual research.*

### TOPIC: **KIDS HOME ALONE IN OREGON**

The most frequently asked legal reference questions from parents are variations on this one:

#### **When can I leave my children home (or in the car) on their own?**

Variations include, but are not limited to:

- How old do my kids need to be before I can leave them home alone, on their own?
- Can I leave my 12 year-old in charge of his younger siblings?
- Can I leave my 10 year-old alone in the car while I run into the store for a few minutes?
- Can I leave my 15 year-old in charge of my neighbor's kids who are staying at my house?

**QUICK TIP:** Click on the [Home Alone Label](#) (sidebar) at the top of the [Oregon Legal Research blog](#).

#### **There may not be a simple *Yes* or *No* response to your question!**

For answers to your Home Alone question, try your local resources first, but there are statewide resources too. Online "*answers*" to the "*can I leave my child alone?*" question will be very general; they will not answer your specific question, which is unique to your situation and your children. Please talk to someone who works with families and with law enforcement and who is professionally trained and authorized to advise you on your legal rights and responsibilities.

**1) In Washington County**, Oregon, call the county's [Commission on Children and Families](#), 503-846-4539

Or, call a local [Washington County Family Resource Center](#):

- Banks Family Resource Center 503-324-5686
- Beaverton Family Resource Center 503-649-0367
- Forest Grove Family Resource Center 503-359-2598
- Hillsboro Family Resource Center 503-844-1063
- Tigard-Tualatin Family Resource Center 503-603-1585

**2) Outside Washington County**, try these resources:

- Contact your own county or city's offices on children or families. If you don't know the phone number, use the [211 service](#) or call your public library for assistance.
- Oregon public library links [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

- [Oregon State Bar \(OSB\) Public Info](#): 503-684-3763 or 800-452-7636 (in Oregon))
- *Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO)* [homepage](#) and [Oregon Law Help](#): 503-648-7163
- Locate your local county law library: [Oregon Council of County Law Libraries directory \(OCCLL\)](#)
- [Oregon State Law Library](#) 503-986-5640
- [Oregon Judicial Department](#) (OJD) [Self-Help Resources](#)
- A directory of [Portland Metro-Area Legal Services](#)
- [How to Find a Lawyer in Oregon](#)
- Ask an Oregon law librarian a question via email: [Oregon State Library / L-NET](#)

See more legal research guides on **Children** and **Babysitting** and other topics from the [Washington County Law Library](#) and [What's New](#) webpages.