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, 9.166, and 9.21). 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

This guide includes information about legal reference questions such as the following:

- When can I leave my children home (or in the car) on their own?
- 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 Research Tip: For answers to questions about leaving children at home alone, try local resources first while keeping in mind that there are statewide resources too. Online “answers” to these questions will be very general and will not address the specifics unique to a given situation. 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. Remember: there may not be a simple “yes” or “no” response to a question!

SPECIFIC RESOURCES

1) Search the Oregon Legal Research blog for posts on leaving children home alone.
   - 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)

3) Outside Washington County:
   - 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 (see the next section for public library links).

OTHER RESOURCES

- Oregon public library links [here](http://www.co.washington.or.us/LawLibrary) and [here](http://www.co.washington.or.us/LawLibrary) and [here](http://www.co.washington.or.us/LawLibrary).
- Oregon State Bar (OSB) Public Info (503-684-3763)
- Oregon Law Center (503-640-4115) – Hillsboro Regional Office
- Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) and Oregon Law Help
- Locate your local county law library: Oregon Council of County Law Libraries directory (OCCLL)
- Oregon State Law Library (503-986-5640)
- 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
- Oregon Legal Research website
- Other Washington County Law Library legal research guides