

Older children home alone

There is no specific law in Victoria that says what age children can be left alone. Victorian law is clear however, that it is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their children are appropriately and safely cared for.

When deciding if your child is old or mature enough to stay home alone, it's useful to consider the following questions:

Tip 1

Do they feel comfortable and confident about being left alone?

Tip 2

Can they use the telephone?

Tip 3

Do they know how to keep themselves safe? For example, do they know not to answer the door or not to swim in the pool?

Tip 4

Are they mature enough to handle any problems that might arise like a fire or injury?

Tip 5

Do they have any illnesses, such as asthma, that may make it unsafe for them to be alone?

Tip 6

Do they know appropriate adults in your local area who they can contact for help?

Tip 7

Do they know how to access emergency services by ringing 000?

Tip 8

How long will you be away? There is a big difference between you going to the shop for a few minutes and being gone for several hours.

Tip 9

Who else is in the house?

