

# 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?

