



**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES:  
INVESTIGATION**

**2104.4 Lack of Supervision**

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Use the following guidelines for determining the level of neglect that exists when children are alone without adult supervision.

- Children eight (8) years and younger should not be left alone;
- Children between the ages of nine (9) years and twelve (12) years, based on level of maturity, may be left alone for brief (less than two hours) periods of time; and,
- Children thirteen (13) years and older, who are at an adequate level of maturity, may be left alone and may perform the role of babysitter, as authorized by the parent, for up to twelve hours.

These guidelines pertain only to children who are not in the department's custody.

Situations involving children for whom the department has placement responsibilities are governed by foster care requirements.