

CORNER



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Online Crime Reporting

Did you know? The Costa Mesa Police Department has an online citizen police report system that allows you to report several different types of crimes online. You may report the following incidents online:

- Annoying/Harassing Phone Calls
- Hit and Run Traffic Collisions
- Lost Property
- Non-injury Traffic Collisions
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Theft from Vehicle (unlocked vehicle only)

Online reporting is a nice alternative for citizens that are unable to wait for a police officer to respond, or are unable to go to the front desk of the Police Department to file a report. There are a few requirements needed to be able to file a report online. They are:

- It is NOT an emergency
- The incident occurred within Costa Mesa
- There is NO suspect information
- It did not occur on a state freeway
- You have a return email address so you may be contacted

You can find detailed instructions on how to file an online crime report at www.costamesapd.org. Just click on the link for Online Crime Reporting!



Home Alone



How young is old enough to leave home alone?

If that question confuses you, you're not alone! Many parents are unsure at what age it is safe to leave their children home alone. Age, of course, is a big factor – but it should not be the only factor when considering whether your child is old enough to stay home alone, even just for a few hours. Working parents share the anxiety, frustration, and even fear when they consider leaving their children on their own when school lets out, child care arrangements with neighbors and relatives break down, or there simply aren't any other alternatives.

Are your children ready to stay home alone? Consider these factors – can your children:

- Be trusted to go straight home after school?
- Easily use the telephone, locks, and kitchen appliances?
- Follow rules and instructions well?
- Handle unexpected situations without panicking?
- Stay alone without being afraid?

Before making this decision, it's important that you sit down and talk with your children about staying home alone. Listen to their worries and ideas. Together, work out rules on having friends over, household chores, homework, and television and game limits. Staying home alone can help build a child's self-esteem, sense of responsibility, and can teach them practical skills. Make sure you teach your children:

- How to call 9-1-1, and what to say, and how to give directions to your home
- To check in with you or a trusted neighbor immediately after arriving home
- How to use the door, window locks, and alarm system
- To never let anyone into the home without your permission
- To never let a caller at the door or on the phone know that they are alone
- To carry a house key with them in a safe place – don't leave a hidden key at the home
- How to escape in case of fire
- To not go into an empty house or apartment if things don't look right
- To let you know about anything that frightens them or makes them feel uncomfortable