

CHILD SAFETY INFORMATION

o Car Safety

Always buckle up your child properly.

A citation can be issued to the driver for every front seat passenger under the age of 16 not wearing a seat belt and/or for not having the proper child restraints on any children five years of age or younger.

An infant must be properly secured in an infant car seat. The car seat must face the rear of the car and must never be put in the front seat where there is an air bag. A convertible or booster seat can be used depending on the child's weight (5-40 lbs can use the convertible seat; 40-about 80 lbs can use the booster seat) until the age of five. Always read the instructions to ensure you have put in the seat correctly.

Never leave a child unattended in a car.

The temperature inside a closed vehicle exposed to the sun can readily exceed 150 degrees in just a matter of minutes. Arizona has special child laws under which guardians who ignore these safety considerations can be prosecuted. Parents are responsible for the well being of their children and need to be aware of the potentially fatal consequences that can occur when a child is left in a car for even a minute. Do not allow children to sit inside a closed car without adult supervision. Infants and young children need appropriate supervision at all times to keep them safe. Leaving your child unattended, even for a brief time puts your child at risk of being abducted. Children may also accidentally release the car brakes or put the car into gear and roll dangerously.

o Bicycle Safety

Arizona's statutes (laws) require anyone less than 18 years of age riding a bicycle or is passenger on a bicycle to be wearing a bicycle helmet. Any violation is subject to a minimum of a \$50.00 fine.

o Children Home Alone

Arizona's statutes (laws) do not designate an age when a child can be left alone. A parent is responsible for the decisions they make about their children being left alone. The law does require however, that the Arizona Department of Economic Security Child Protective Services (CPS) investigate reports of neglect, which include failure to provide supervision that places a child at substantial risk of harm.

CPS has identified situations (that could cause a substantiated risk of harm to children who are alone) that are taken as reports for investigation. For example: - Children under the age of six; - A child of any age who cannot care for his or herself due to a physical, emotional or mental inability; - Children six to nine years of age, for three hours or longer; or it is unknown when the parent will return.

Also taken into consideration is whether or not the child knows how to get a hold of his/her parents? Does the child know how to get emergency help? Is there a neighbor to go to? And is someone checking in on the child?

o Child Abduction

Over 800,000 children are reported missing in the United States each year. Here are several simple tips to safeguard your children.

- Teach your children that police are their friends and that they can rely on them if they are in trouble.
- Keep an up-to-date color photograph of your children.

- Teach them to never get into a car with someone else without your permission.
- They should never answer the door if they are alone.
- They should never hitchhike.
- Never leave your child alone in a public place.
- If lost teach them to go to the nearest cashier/employee.

If your child becomes missing you should call 911 immediately. Arizona has a program called the Amber Alert System, which is an immediate broadcasting to all radio, television, highway signs, e-mail and more, letting citizens know of child abduction.

o **Poison Control**

Arizona’s Poison and Drug Information Centers can be reached 24 hours a day 7 days a week. In case of an accidental poisoning emergency, they can be reached at (520) 222-1222. Some of the most common types of poisonings result from the following.

- Cleaning products: Bleach, detergents, drain cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners
- Medication: Aspirin, ibuprofen, opiates
- Cosmetics: mouthwash, nail polish remover,
- Plants- flowers, shrubs, roots, leaves
- Bites and stings: insects, spiders, animals, snakes, animals

When there are small children in your home be sure to poison proof it as much as possible.

- Don't leave a child and a poison alone, ever.
- Put products away and out of reach right after use.
- Clean out medicine cabinet regularly.
- Give medication only to the person the doctor has prescribed it for.
- Store all cleaning products, medicines, insect sprays, paints and car fluids out of reach and/or in locked cabinets.

o **Child Discipline**

Discipline is designed to control and help child behavior. Its purpose should be to encourage moral, physical and intellectual development and a sense of responsibility in children. Ultimately, older children will do the right thing not out of fear, but because they have internalized a standard presented by their parents. Abuse on the other hand is characterized by its orientation towards expressing the negative feelings of the caregiver. It is also defined as actions, which have lasting physical effects, such as broken bones, burns, cuts, internal organ damage or substantial bruises. In America spanking your child is legal however if there is a probable cause to believe the child is in immediate danger of death or great bodily harm or if the child exhibits long-term, debilitating, and confirmed psychological trauma Child Protective Services can intervene.

Please visit the following web sites for more information:

- <http://arizonachildcare.org/safety.htm>
- <http://www.missingkids.com/>
- <http://www.pharmacy.arizona.edu/centers/apdic/apdic.shtml>
- <http://www.governor.state.az.us/cps/index.htm>

Please sign to acknowledge that you have read and understand the information provided.

Signature

Date

Print Your Name