

---

SENATE BILL 5706

---

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove and Erwin

Read first time 02/10/93. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to unattended children; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 9A.42 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9A.42 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) A person having the care and custody, whether temporary or  
7 permanent, of a child or a dependent person shall not:

8 (a) Leave a child under age six without supervision under  
9 circumstances creating an unreasonable risk of imminent harm to the  
10 child's health, welfare, and safety. A person who leaves a child under  
11 age six unsupervised for a period longer than one hour may be inferred  
12 to have created an unreasonable risk of imminent harm, unless evidence  
13 satisfactorily shows the trier of fact that leaving the child  
14 unattended was not a risk to the child's safety;

15 (b) Leave a child under age twelve, without supervision under  
16 circumstances creating an unreasonable risk of imminent harm to the  
17 child's health, welfare, and safety. A person who leaves a child under  
18 age twelve for a period longer than twenty-four hours may be inferred  
19 to have created an unreasonable risk of imminent harm; or

1 (c) Lock a child or dependent person in a house in lieu of  
2 obtaining a caretaker or leave a child or dependent person with a  
3 caretaker who is incapable of providing adequate care.

4 (2) It is a defense to a charge brought under subsection (1) of  
5 this section that a child under age six was left in the care of a child  
6 over age twelve.

7 (3) A person violating this section is guilty of a gross  
8 misdemeanor.

--- END ---