

Ask the Chief - Curfew

Many parents have asked, "What is the curfew for children in Minneota" and I smile every time I am asked because there are two answers to this question. The first answer can be found in the City of Minneota ordinances. The ordinance states that no child shall be in a public area (or places of entertainment and amusement) unless the child is accompanied by the minor's parent, guardian or other person having the minor's lawful care, custody or control.

Ages 15 and under: Sunday thru Thursday, 10:00 PM thru 5:00 AM the following day. Friday and Saturday is 11:00 PM thru 5:00 AM

Ages 16 / 17: Sunday thru Thursday, 11:00 PM thru 5:00 AM the following day. Friday and Saturday is 12:00 PM thru 5:00 AM

Exceptions: June 1st thru Labor Day

Ages 15 and under: Sunday thru Thursday, 11:00 PM thru 5:00 AM the following day. Friday and Saturday is 11:00 PM thru 5:00 AM

Ages 16 / 17: Sunday thru Thursday, 12:00 PM thru 5:00 AM the following day. Friday and Saturday is 12:00 PM thru 5:00 AM

This ordinance does not apply to a child returning home by a direct route from and within 30 minutes of a school activity, religious service, place or employment or other activity or errand as directed by the child's parents.

If a child is found in violation of this ordinance both the child and parent can be issued a ticket.

After reading this you are probably wondering why is it so complicated and how are you supposed to remember all the details? That is why I prefer the second answer to this important question.

As a parent you can and should set whatever curfew you want. If you feel that your son or daughter needs to be home by 9:00 PM, tell them that and if they don't come home I will help you find them. I believe in parental rights and responsibilities and I will do whatever I can to support you as a parent in working with your children. It is my belief that the city ordinance should be viewed as a last resort and that parents should be setting rules for their children based upon the needs of the individual child. If you would like to discuss this further please stop in and see me or call my cell phone at 507-360-7864 and if you have a question that you would like me to answer you can call me or email me at minneotapolicedepartment@outlook.com.