

THE DENVER CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIMS



DENVER'S CURFEW LAW

Denver has a curfew law for all children under the age of 18. If you are concerned about young people out at night, you can report violations of this law.

Denver Revised Municipal Code D.R.M.C. 34-61 states, in part, that:

“It is unlawful for a minor to be in any public place or on the premises of any establishment during curfew hours...It shall be unlawful for a parent or guardian of a minor to knowingly permit, or by insufficient control, allow the minor to be in or remain in any public place or on the premises of any establishment during curfew hours...”

In Denver, the curfew hours for all children under the age of 18 are:

**From 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., Monday through Thursday and Sunday, and
From midnight to 5:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.**

Once a violation of curfew is determined by Denver Police Patrol Officers, anywhere in Denver, the officer tickets the child. From October to March, the child must appear in court at a later date, where he/she can choose to pay a fine (approximately \$125) or attend counseling or self-help classes. From April through September, the officer tickets the child and transports the unsupervised child to a SafeNite Curfew Program center, where the parents or guardians are called to pick him/her up. Only curfew violators are brought to these centers. Juvenile criminal offenders are processed through existing juvenile delinquency facilities.

Police can issue tickets to the teens and parents. Usually, there is approximately \$23 in court costs for each ticket. Fines, if any, are set at the discretion of the judge.

Per the Code, the following keep underage children from being picked up or ticketed for curfew violation:

- a) When the child is obviously accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.
- b) If the child is in a motor vehicle currently used for interstate travel.
- c) If the child is engaged in employment activity or going to or returning from an employment activity without any detours or stops.

SafeNite Curfew centers are staffed by police officers who process tickets for both teens and parents and provide court dates; Parks and Recreation personnel, who are responsible for assuring activities which will reduce idleness and unrest; and a professional counselor, who will be able to deal with problems associated with repeated violations or parenting problems.

The curfew law has been in effect since before 1950. Recently, the ordinance has been amended. However, this is not new. Denver has just taken a stronger role in enforcing the law. Again, if you have concerns about youth on the streets after curfew hours, call the police. It is important to be vigilant and report any problems.