

## What is the Responsibility of Parents?

*It is unlawful for the parent or guardian or other adult person responsible for the care and custody of the minor to knowingly permit, or by insufficient parental control to allow, any such minor to violate the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance.*

Upon a second or subsequent conviction of this offense, the court may impose a fine or jail sentence.

## What is the Responsibility of Local Businesses?

*It is unlawful for the owner, manager, employee, or any other person having control of any business open to the public, during its business hours, to knowingly permit any minor to remain on the business property during curfew hours unless the minor is (a) accompanied by a parent or guardian or other adult person responsible for the care and custody of the minor; (b) engaged in an errand directed by his parent or guardian or other adult person responsible for the care and custody of the minor.*

Upon conviction, the court may impose a fine or jail sentence. There is no violation if the minor refused to leave after being requested to do so and the owner, manager, or employee promptly notified the police of the violation.

For additional information regarding this ordinance, call Crime Prevention Unit  
703-792-7270  
[crimeprevention@pwcgov.org](mailto:crimeprevention@pwcgov.org)



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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY JUVENILE CURFEW



# What is the Curfew for Minors?

## Ordinance 16-3

### Code of Prince William County

**Effective July 1, 1997, in Prince William County, it is unlawful for anyone 17 years of age or less to be or remain in any public place between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and between the hours of 11:59 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday.**



## Are there Exemptions?

Certain circumstances may exempt some juveniles from the Curfew Law. The exemptions are as follows:

- When accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other adult person to whom the minor has been temporarily entrusted.
- When engaged in an errand for a parent, guardian, or other adult person to whom the minor has been temporarily entrusted.
- When engaged in lawful employment with the permission of the parent or guardian.
- When attending an official school function, religious activity, civic function, or recreational activity sponsored by a county or civic organization or similar entity, and including travel to and from, with the permission of parent or guardian.
- When involved in an emergency.
- When in a vehicle during interstate travel.
- When on property or sidewalk abutting residence with permission of parent or guardian.
- When married, previously married, or emancipated.
- When exercising first amendment rights.

## What happens to Violators?

Minors detained for a violation of the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance may be arrested, may be taken to a Juvenile Curfew Center, may be released to the custody of a parent or guardian, may be released after the issuance of a summons for court, or may be issued a warning.

## What are the Penalties?

1st Offense—in lieu of a fine, the Court may impose community service of up to 50 hours.

2nd Offense — the penalty shall be a fine of not less than \$200.00 and/or up to 100 hours of community service.

3rd Offense — the penalty shall be a fine of not less than \$350.00 and/or up to 200 hours of community service.

Parents of minors who are arrested and transported to a curfew center must pay a processing fee.