

Unattended Children Policy

Statement of Purpose

The James E. Nichols Memorial Library welcomes children of all ages to use and enjoy the facility, collections, public computers and programming offered by the Library. The Library attempts to provide a safe environment for everyone; however, it is a busy, public building open to all. This policy is established by the Board of Trustees for the safety of children and the enjoyment of all Library patron.

Policy

The James E. Nichols Memorial Library assumes no responsibility for children of any age left unattended in the building or on the Library premises. The Library staff do not act *in loco parentis*. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children while on Library property rests with each child's parent(s), Legal guardian(s), or responsible adult(s) designated by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), even if the parent(s), legal guardian(s) or designated responsible adult(s) are not present in the Library with the child. Every child should know how to reach their parent(s), guardian(s), or designated responsible adult(s) in case emergency, unexpected Library closing, behavior concern or other issue arises.

No child under the age of eleven (11) years may be left unattended at the Library. A child is considered unattended if the child is in the Library or on the premises of the Library without a parent, legal guardian or designated responsible adult.

At the discretion of the parent(s), legal guardian(s), or responsible adult designated by the parents(s) or legal guardian(s), a child of eleven (11) years of age or older may be left unattended at the Library. The child is free to use the Library's resources as long as their behavior is not disruptive to other patrons, visitors, and staff or otherwise inappropriate for the Library. If the Librarian or staff determine a child's behavior is inappropriate, the parent, legal guardian or designated responsible adult will be contacted to remove the child from the Library.

Unattended children must be picked up by their parent(s), legal guardian(s), or the responsible adult(s) designated by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) no later than 30 minutes prior to closing time. If any children are still at the Library at that time, the staff will contact a parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult to pick up the child. If a parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult cannot be reached, the staff will contact the Police Department for assistance. Library staff members are prohibited from transporting children in their own vehicle.