Library Policy on Unattended and/or Disruptive Children

Unattended Children

Children under the age of 9 may not be left unattended anywhere in the library. Children under age 9 must be accompanied and directly supervised by a responsible caregiver at all times, in all areas of the library, and on its grounds.

Unattended children age 9 and up are free to utilize the library as long as needed, provided their behavior is not disruptive to other patrons or staff members. Parents or caregivers are responsible for their children's behavior on library premises. The Youth Services staff is committed to help children with activities related to the library. Library staff cannot, however, nor is it their responsibility to, serve as babysitters, teachers, or disciplinarians.

If a parent or caregiver of a child under age 9 cannot be located or if the library is closing, library staff is authorized to call the police. Two library staff members will wait with the child until the police arrive.

Disruptive Children

If a child is creating a disruption in the library, staff should intervene and advise the child to stop the behavior. If the disturbance continues, and staff has to issue a second warning, the child should also be told at that time that any further disturbances will be grounds for ejection. Public service staff should, at this time, inform the In Charge staff that two warnings have been given, and very clearly explain all details which have led to giving 2 warnings.

If the disturbance continues, the In Charge person or designee should be asked to intervene. Two staff members should be present if a child must be told to leave the library. The In Charge person should ask for the child's name and telephone number, and may attempt to contact the child's parents or responsible caregiver.

Revision History
3/30/2022, 5/13/2019, 3/01/2017, 3/01/2016, 12/01/2013, 12/01/2012, 10/01/2009, 12/18/2008, 5/01/2005, 4/20/1995, 2/18/1993