

POLICY FOR CONDUCT OF CHILDREN AND MINORS

*All rules from the **Policy for Conduct and Responsibility of Patrons** also pertain to children and/or minors.*

As a public institution the French Simpson Memorial Library is open to all regardless of origin, age, background, and views. Since the Library is an open public building, the well-being and safety of unattended* children is a serious concern. Parents and/or guardians, not the Library staff, are responsible for the safety, well-being, and conduct of children in their charge. Staff should not be placed in the position of supervising children who are too young to be unattended or whose behavior indicates they have stayed in the Library too long. To avoid disruption of normal Library operations and services, to insure the safety of young patrons, and to benefit staff and other patrons, the French Simpson Memorial Library has developed the following policy:

1. All children under age 10 must be accompanied by an adult or responsible adolescent.
2. Children age 10 and up are welcome to use the Library as long as their behavior is in accordance with Library policy. The Library is not an alternative to daycare. The Library is an open public environment, and the staff cannot monitor everyone who enters. To ensure their children's safety, parents should be sure their children are mature enough to visit the Library by themselves. The Library will advise parents whose children misbehave, and children who do so may be asked to leave the Library grounds. Parents are legally responsible for their unaccompanied children's behavior. The Library assumes no responsibility for any child left unattended in the Library.
3. Minors left to wait outside the Library when it closes are vulnerable. Library staff is not responsible for the safety of a child after Library hours, but they will attempt to contact the responsible adult. If they cannot contact the adult they will summon the police to assist the child. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the Library or give a child a ride home.
4. If staff members find an unattended child under the age of 10 they will take the following steps:
 - They will determine if the parent is in the Library. If so, a staff member and the child will try to locate the parent.
 - If the parent is not in the library, the staff member will try to contact the parent at home or work using information provided by the child. The parent will be told that their child must be picked up immediately.
 - If the parent cannot be located or if a contacted parent has not picked up their child within half an hour of being called the staff member will contact the police.

**“Unattended” means the parent is not in the building with the child.*

Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior

The Library staff may ask unruly children and those responsible for them to leave the library. The Library will report repeated disruptive behavior to parents and/or guardians.

Librarians will ask disruptive minors under the age of 16 to leave the Library after two warnings. They will notify the parent, the guardian, or local authorities.

The Library reserves the right to suspend Library privileges for minors with persistent or severe violations of the Library’s policies. The Library will send notification by registered mail to the parent and/or legal guardian of any minor whose Library privileges have been suspended.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson of Library Board

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Mayor of the City of Hallettsville