

# Unattended Children

For the protection and well being of children who visit the library, the following policy has been established.

## Children 8 and Under

Children under the age of 8 may not be left unattended by an adult in any part of the Library. If children under the age of 8 are found without an adult, staff will attempt to locate the parent or other caregiver. If a caregiver cannot be located, it is the Library's responsibility to call emergency services.

## Children 9-12

These children are welcome to use the library unattended but should not be left alone for extended periods of time. No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. Parents are responsible for their behavior. If a child becomes anxious or disruptive the staff will attempt to find the parent or caregiver in the library. If they are not available, the staff will call the child's home. It is the responsibility of the parent or caregiver to be accessible to pick up the child at any time. If a parent or caregiver cannot be located, the child may be asked within reason to return home. If the child cannot reasonably be expected to return home, it is the Library's responsibility to call emergency services.

## Children 13 and Older

Children 13 and over are old enough to use the library responsibly. If problems arise, they may be asked to leave or parents may be contacted. It is the responsibility of the parent or caregiver to be accessible to pick up the child at any time. The child must have a way for staff to contact the parent or caregiver at all times when they are left unattended in the library.

## Unattended Children After-Hours

Children who are left unattended at closing time may be deemed at risk. If a parent or caregiver does not arrive by 10 minutes after closing, staff will contact emergency services.