

Jackson County Public Library

UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

The Library is not responsible for unattended children and is mandated by statute to report suspected neglect or abuse. KRS 620.030

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A “child” is considered to be a patron who is 17 years of age or younger
- A child is considered to be “unattended” when the caregiver is unable to communicate with the child verbally at a reasonable volume
- A “disruptive” child is one whose actions disturb others or damage items belonging to the Library or to others
- A “caregiver” must be over 13 years of age

NEGLECT OR ABUSE

In no instance may a child under the age of 13 be left without a caregiver physically present in the building.

Neglect will be reported to law enforcement in the following cases:

- Children aged 5 or under who are left unattended for any length of time
- Children aged 6–9 who are left unattended for more than 30 minutes
- Children aged 10–12 who are unattended for 2 hours or more

Any case of suspected abuse will be reported to the Director.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

The Library will report to law enforcement any instance where an unattended child is disruptive and does not respond to the correction of staff. Law enforcement may be asked to remove unattended children whose caregivers cannot be found.

CHILDREN LEFT AFTER CLOSING

When a child under 17 years of age is unattended at the time the Library’s closing, the staff will make reasonable attempt to contact the caregiver. If staff is unable to contact the caregiver, law enforcement will be called to take custody of the child. Staff will remain with the child until the law enforcement takes custody.

Library privileges may be curtailed when a child is repeatedly left on the Library’s premises after closing.

REPORTS

Incident reports will be written for any incident involving the neglect of a child.

Incident reports will be written for any disruptive behavior in which law enforcement is notified.

Repeated incidents involving a particular child may result in loss of Library privileges for both child and caregiver.