

Unattended Children Policy

The physical safety of children left alone in a public library building is a serious concern of the library staff. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests with the accompanying adult and not with library personnel. Librarians cannot be responsible for children who are unattended or demonstrating inappropriate behavior. The following guidelines will be followed concerning the care and behavior of young library users:

- All children five years old or younger shall, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by an accompanying adult age 18 years or older.

Staff should inform the accompanying adult of problem behavior should the adult fail to notice or volunteer correction.

- Children ages 6-8 must have an accompanying adult age 18 years or older present in the building.

A reasonable attempt will be made to locate the responsible party in the event a child is left unattended. If no responsible party is found, it may be necessary to notify the police.

- Children 9 years and older may use the library unattended, subject to rules and regulations of the West Union Community Library concerning behavior, conduct and demeanor. Disruptive children, as with patrons of all ages, will be warned and may be asked to leave if disruption continues.

If the child cannot be asked to leave because no adult can be located and their behavior continues to be disruptive, the police may be called.

- Staff members will not take children unattended from library property. If the library is closing and parents have not picked up their children, the police may be called.

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