

Underage Policy

The safety of children left alone in a library building is a serious concern. Library employees cannot be responsible for children in the library. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests with the adult caregiver. Library staff are not able to prevent members of the public from entering the building or interacting with children.

- The term “Supervise” means that the adult caregiver will be on the same floor as the children to monitor their behavior.
- A parent or legal guardian will be contacted and asked to remove a child if their behavior becomes disruptive.
- A teen will be asked to leave the library premises with a copy of this policy to serve as notification to the parent or legal guardian.
- The Library Director can request that children or teens be supervised by an adult caregiver at all times in the library.

Children 5 and under

Under no circumstances may children 5 and under be left unsupervised by an adult caregiver at the library or in a program.

Children 6-7

The adult caregiver must remain in the library while children are attending a library sponsored program for children. The caregiver must supervise the children if they are not in a library program.

Children 8-9

Children 8-9 cannot be at the library unattended except to attend programs. The caregiver must remain in the building if their children are not in a library program.

Children 10

Children 10 can be at the library unattended to attend a program and up to twenty minutes to select materials. Otherwise, the adult caregiver must be in the library.

Children 11-12

Children 11-12 can be in the Library unattended for up to two hours a day; the two hours would include library programming.

At Closing

Children and teens left unattended at closing may be given a copy of this policy and a brochure listing library hours. Under no circumstances will a staff member drive a child home.

Children 12 and under

If a supervisor is notified of a child 12 and under on library premises near closing, the supervisor will assist the child in calling a parent or legal guardian. If the child has not been picked up by fifteen minutes after closing or if the child cannot make contact with a parent, the police will be notified. Two staff members will remain with the child until the police arrive.

Children 13 and over

Children 13 and over on library premises near closing will be asked to use the phone to contact a parent or guardian, but will be required to remain outside the library after closing. At the supervisor’s discretion, the police may be notified.