

Policy Statement

The goal of the library is to maintain a welcoming environment that encourages families to explore library resources and share learning opportunities. The library wants adults and children of all ages to have a safe, positive experience. Unattended children may act in a manner not in compliance with the library's *Patron Behavior Policy* thus adversely affecting other customers' library experience and diverting staff from providing service to other customers.

Definitions

1. "Child" (or children) is defined as a minor under the age of 18.
2. "Responsible Caregiver" is an individual who is responsible for monitoring or caring for a child and who must be at least 16 years old. This includes a parent, legal guardian, custodian or temporary caregiver.

Regulations

1. For their own protection, children under the age of 12 must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a Responsible Caregiver who shall remain in the library at all times. The library is a public place and, as such, cannot be responsible for unattended children.
2. Children under six must be within the visual contact of a Responsible Caregiver at all times, including during programs and visits to the restroom. Children under six may not be left in the Children's Area alone.
3. Children of any age who, because of developmental disability, mental illness, physical disability, or other similar reason, require supervision or personal care shall be attended by a Responsible Caregiver at all times.
4. All patrons, including children, are expected to comply with the library's policies, including its Patron Behavior Policy. Responsible Caregivers shall review and be fully aware of all Library policies governing children, particularly the Internet Use Policy.
5. Responsible Caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children as well as the materials their children access regardless of age while in the Library.

Approved 8/23/2022

Brandon Township Public Library Board of Trustees
Brandon Library Policies

6. Library Staff will not be expected to supervise or monitor children's behavior.
7. Staff will not be responsible if unattended children leave the Library premises. Further, staff will not be responsible for children who may be asked to leave the library if the child is in violation of Library policy.
8. All unattended children must be picked up at least ten minutes before closing time. Responsible Caregivers need to be aware of when the Library closes.
9. Children 12 years or older must know their telephone number and other contact information if they are unattended at the Library. It is a violation of Library policy not to come immediately and pick up your unattended child if the Library calls.

Contact with Responsible Caregiver for Unattended Child

1. Library staff will attempt to contact a Responsible Caregiver when:
 - a. The health or safety of an unattended child is in doubt.
 - b. A child is frightened while alone at the Library.
 - c. The behavior of an unattended child violates Library policy.
 - d. The unattended child has not been met by a Responsible Caregiver at closing time. A child is considered unattended at closing time if the child is under the age of 12 or a child of any age needs assistance procuring transportation.
2. If a Responsible Caregiver cannot be reached within 15 minutes after closing, fails to arrive within a reasonable time after being contacted, or arrives 30 minutes or more after the Library closes, Library staff will contact law enforcement officials to take charge of the situation involving the unattended child. Library employees are not permitted to transport an unattended child under any circumstances.
3. If the Responsible Caregiver can be reached within 10 minutes after closing and arrives in a reasonable time, the staff member shall explain the Library's policy and provide a copy of this Policy.

4. Two Library staff members shall remain with the unattended child until the Responsible Caregiver or law enforcement arrives.

Violation; Enforcement; Appeal

Any violation of this policy shall be processed in the same manner and format as a violation of the Library's Patron Behavior Policy. The violation, enforcement and appeal provisions of the Patron Behavior Policy shall govern violations, enforcement and appeals for the Unattended Children Policy.

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