

Ely Public Library

Unattended Children Policy

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Purpose

To ensure the safety and well being of the children and maintain an atmosphere of constructive library use.

The Library welcomes library use by children. Staff members are available to assist children with library materials or services. The Library desires to provide a safe and appropriate environment for visitors of all ages. The Library, however, is a public building with staff trained to provide public library services. The Library is not equipped—and it is not the Library's role—to provide long- or short-term child care.

Policy

1. Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when they are unattended.
2. Supervision of children:
 - a. Children under the age of eight (8) should be in sight of and supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. Parents or caregivers of preschool children are expected to remain in the library while children are attending library programs.
 - b. Older children able to maintain proper library behavior may use the library unattended, otherwise they should be adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver.
3. Staff may, as needed:
 - a. notify parents, guardians, or responsible caregivers whose children need additional supervision;
 - b. contact authorities such as the Police either to assist with the enforcement of discipline in the library or to ensure the safety of an unattended child.
4. Staff will make a reasonable effort to assure that children leave the library comfortably and safely at closing time. If any children remain at the library 15 minutes after closing, staff will contact the Police Department to ensure safe transport.

Adopted by the Ely Public Library Board 6/3/2009
Reviewed and approved 5/6/2015