

Subject: Unattended Children/Minors in the Library

Section: Facility

Adopted: October 31, 2012

UNATTENDED CHILDREN/MINORS IN THE LIBRARY POLICY

The Board and the staff welcome children into the library to study, and to browse through the children's book collection to begin to learn of the joy of books and reading. The Board recognizes the importance of reading skills in the future of the child and the importance of recreational reading to the quality of life for all citizens of the parish. However, the Board does not place upon the staff of the library the role of "babysitter" or caretaker for unsupervised children.

1. The Library as an institution and the staff individually are not and shall not be responsible for the welfare of children left unsupervised in the library for any extended period of time.
2. Children shall not be paged for telephone calls except in cases of emergency.
3. Children below the age of ten (10) years must be accompanied by an adult parent, guardian, or older sibling. The Library as an institution and the staff as individuals do not assume the role of parent or caretaker, nor childcare provided for minor children.
4. Parents shall supervise minor children while they are in the public areas of the library.
5. Minor children who remain at the library at the close of the business day will be allowed to call their parents/home to arrange transportation.
6. If children remain in or outside the library at the end of the public service day, the civil authorities (City Police) shall be notified.