

Policy on Unattended Children

All patrons, including children, must abide by the library's behavior policies. For children's safety, a parent, guardian, or caregiver is solely responsible for the behavior and supervision of children while in the library or on library property. Neither Scenic Regional Library nor its staff is able to provide short- or long-term child care. The library is not liable for children left unattended in its libraries or on its property.

Children under the age of 11 should be accompanied by a parent/guardian or responsible caregiver (age 14 or older). The responsible person should remain in sight of the child at all times.

If a child is attending a library program, the responsible person should remain in the building for the duration of the program.

If an unattended child is found, for the child's safety, library staff will attempt to contact a responsible party:

Library staff shall obtain the name, address, and telephone number of the parent or responsible caregiver so they may be called to pick up the child.

If the staff member is unable to contact the parent or responsible caregiver who left the child at the library, they will ask the child for the name of a local relative who might be contacted to pick them up.

When all attempts to contact the parent, responsible caregiver, or relative have failed, the staff member shall call the local police to pick up the child.

Unattended Children at Closing Time

If an unattended child, under the age of 16, has not been picked up by closing time, library staff shall follow the above procedure. If the staff member is unable to contact a responsible party within 10 minutes after closing, the staff member shall call the local police to pick up the child.

As a safety and liability precaution, a staff member is not, under any circumstances, to give a child a ride home in their car.

Adopted: February 21, 2017