Clarion

Public

Library Unattended Children Policy

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.

Policy:

Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver (13 years or older), though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children’s safety and comfort when they are unattended. The Library staff cannot, nor is it their responsibility to serve as daycare, teachers, or disciplinarians. Staff members cannot know or be responsible if children are leaving the building with responsible caregivers or with strangers.

Supervision of children:

* 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.
* 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.

Staff may, as needed:

* Ask a child to leave the library if Library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor are not being followed.
* Notify parents, guardians, or responsible caregivers if a child 8 years or younger is in the Library unattended.
* 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.

Staff will make a reasonable effort to assure that children under the age of 13 leave the library comfortably and safely at closing time. If any children remain at the library 15 minutes after closing, staff may contact the Police Department to ensure safe transport. Under no circumstance will library staff drive a child to any location.

Revised and Approved by the Clarion Public Library Board of Trustees, September 9, 2019.

Adopted September 19, 2013.