

Unattended Child and Patron Behavior Policies

Unattended Child Policy

A primary mission of the library is to provide a safe, secure, comfortable, and convenient facility for patrons and staff. This is especially true for children who visit the library. Although staff are available to assist and provide general guidance, the library does not provide childcare services. Attaining the desired and appropriate environment for children requires the communication and cooperation of both staff and parents/guardians.

Definitions for the Purpose of this Policy:

- Unattended Child: Age seven or younger without proper supervision.
- Adult, Parent, Caregiver, Babysitter: A responsible person age twelve or older able to supervise and respond in emergencies.
- Inappropriate Behavior: disruptive, abusive, unsafe, or damaging actions to the library or contents of the library, staff, or others at the library.

Regulations

1. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to assure the appropriate behavior of their children while in the library.
2. Children exhibiting inappropriate and/or disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the library building and grounds.
3. Children seven years of age and younger must be attended and supervised (within sight) at all times by a responsible person. This person must be twelve years of age or older and be assigned to the care of the child.
4. Library staff are not responsible for the supervision of children left unattended. Staff responses to children left unattended can include:
 - a. Sending the child home.
 - b. Calling parents/guardians to come to the library and pick the child up.
 - c. Calling the police, or the appropriate authorities including child welfare agencies, to assume responsibility for the child.
5. Chronic offenders will be denied use of the library. The duration of the prohibition will be determined individually based on the nature of the offense.
6. Individuals of any age with mental, physical, or emotional problems which render supervision necessary shall be accompanied by a parent or other caregiver at all times.
7. When the library closes, no one is available to supervise the areas outside the library. Arrangements must be made with your child with pickup/walking instructions BEFORE closing time. If a child is still in the library at closing time without prior arrangements and staff are unable to reach the caregiver, the local authorities will be called to assist in locating a parent/guardian for the child's safety. Two staff members will stay inside the library with the child until the child has been picked up.

Patron Behavior Policy

The Patron Behavior Policy encourages behavior that supports the library's mission. Those unable to comply with acceptable behavior may be required to leave and may lose library privileges. This policy is enforced on all library premises.

Expectations of patron behavior:

1. Patrons will demonstrate self-respect, respect for others, and respect for all things in the library environment.
2. Patrons will help maintain a safe, orderly, and productive library environment using self-discipline.
3. Patrons will handle all conflicts without the use of violence and with courtesy and respect for the rights of all.
4. Patrons will dress in an appropriate manner including that which demonstrates a concern for public health, hygiene, and decency.

Unacceptable Behavior (includes but are not limited to):

1. Any behavior that is physically and/or mentally threatening to others or that is illegal. Examples include:
 - a. Carrying, displaying, or entering the premises with weapons of any type unless authorized to do so.
 - b. Theft or vandalism.
 - c. Fighting or threatening physical harm.
 - d. Gross disrespect toward any individual, including cursing, name-calling, and other inappropriate language.
 - e. Defiance of library rules and the efforts of staff to enforce them.
 - f. Entering the premises with or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including smoking.
 - g. Engaging in sexual harassment or inappropriate touching of any kind.
 - h. Accessing, creating or displaying information by any means, including via the library's public computing service, that is obscene as defined by Kansas law. K.S.A. 21-6401 is listed as Appendix E.
2. Any behavior that negatively affects an orderly environment, such as disruptive behavior in the library, including the grounds, restrooms, and during programs.
3. Any behavior that interferes with the library use of other patrons. Examples include:
 - a. Failure to follow reasonable requests by the staff.
 - b. Playing audio/video equipment so that others may hear it.
 - c. Engaging in aggressive physical behavior.
 - d. Disturbing other patrons in any way.
 - e. Unauthorized or unlawful entry into library property, staff areas, or multiple occupancy spaces.

Engaging in unacceptable behavior may result in loss of privileges, expulsion from the library, and/or contact and referral to the appropriate legal authority. Library privileges may be temporarily revoked by the director and may be permanently revoked by vote of the

library board. The duration of the prohibition will be determined individually based on the nature of the offense.