

## Unattended Children Policy

### Policy Statement

The Van Buren District 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, inviting 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 childcare. In order to create an environment of safety and maintain an atmosphere where reading and study can be encouraged, the following policy has been established.

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### Regulations

1. For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver over the age of 12 should accompany children age eight (8) and under while they are using the Library unless that child is participating in a supervised, scheduled program such as story hour or after-school craft-time. While in the Library or on Library property, parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of their children.
  2. "Unattended" means that the parent/care giver is not in the library with the child.
  3. Library staff members will be guided by this policy in situations such as:
    - A. A child age 8 and under is left unattended in the Library.
    - B. An unattended child is perceived to be endangering him or herself, or that another person in the library poses a perceived threat to the unattended child.
    - C. An unattended child exhibits specific inappropriate behavior.
    - D. An unattended child has not been met by a responsible caregiver before closing time.
  4. After evaluating the situation, a Library staff member will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of an unattended child. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot immediately be reached, the child will be placed in the care of the local police department or the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department.
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Approved: November 25, 2003  
Van Buren District Library Board of Trustees