

Unattended Children Policy

Young children under the age of 8 may not be left alone anywhere in the Library, including areas designated for children. A parent, guardian, or other responsible adult must accompany any children, regardless of age, who cannot communicate their first and last names, their phone number, and the first and last name of the person who brought them to the library.

While staff is concerned about the safety and well-being of children and young adults, they cannot assume responsibility for them in the absence of the parent or guardian.

Russell Library attempts to assure the well-being of all customers visiting the library while promoting the enjoyment of books and free access to information; however, parents should understand that the Library cannot assure their children's safety even for those 8 years of age and older if they are left unattended.

Also, when children are left unattended for long periods of time, they may become frightened, restless and/or disruptive, pose physical danger to themselves or others, or interfere with other customers.

Requirements & Guidelines

- Library staff cannot assume responsibility for the safety and well-being of any child in the absence of the parent/caregiver.
- Library staff is not responsible for the safety and well-being of children left at the library at closing time. However, if a staff member calls a parent/caregiver or the police on behalf of that child, library staff assumes responsibility for remaining with that child until either the parent/caregiver or the police arrive.
- Library staff may not drive children to any location, even by request of the parent/caregiver.
- When the parent/caregiver for an unattended child cannot be located, or if young children are left unattended on a regular basis especially at closing time, staff will contact library security and/or police.
- Any time young children are left unattended in the library, staff will discuss this policy with the parent/caregiver.

DATE APPROVED BY THE RUSSELL LIBRARY COMPANY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: November 15, 2016

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 16, 2016

REPLACING POLICY EFFECTIVE; June 16, 2015