



Western Sullivan Public Library

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

For reasons of safety and the well-being of young children, we ask for your cooperation with the following policy:

1. Children under the age of 12 may not be left unattended in the library—they must be accompanied by a parent or supervised by someone at least 16 years of age. Staff will notify parents of this policy when children are left unattended repeatedly and/or for long periods of time. If necessary, the police or child protective services may be contacted.
2. Children aged 12 and older may be left unattended in the library for a reasonable amount of time, generally not to exceed 1-2 hours.
3. The library is not to be used as a latchkey/babysitting site at any time.
4. Children in the library need to know how to contact a parent/guardian. They should also be aware of the library's closing time. If an unaccompanied child is at the library at closing time, the police will be contacted if deemed necessary.
5. Library staff cannot provide food, money or transportation to children, with the exception of snacks during children's programs.
6. Library telephones are available only for emergencies.
7. Library staff cannot take responsibility for a child in the case of a medical emergency.
8. All children are expected to follow this policy in addition to the library's Code of Conduct Policy. Children will be asked to leave the library if proper behavior is not maintained. For repeated or extreme behavior problems, children may be banned from the library for a period of time to be determined by the librarian.

PLEASE NOTE:

***PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, NOT LIBRARY STAFF, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE VISITING THE LIBRARY.**

***PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE THAT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AS AN INSTITUTION DOES NOT HAVE LEGAL "PROVISION OF CARE" RESPONSIBILITIES.**