



Unattended Children Policy	
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REVISION #	5.0

LIBRARY POLICY

Unattended Children Policy

PURPOSE

Governing the safety and wellbeing of minors in the Frankfort Public Library District.

POLICY

The Frankfort Public Library District welcomes children of all ages to utilize the Library's resources to meet their informational, recreational, and educational needs.

Library facilities, however, are not licensed or designed to provide basic childcare needs, such as physical exercise, nutrition, or emergency care, nor are they to be used as an alternative shelter for children. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. It is impossible for Library staff to constantly monitor the safety and whereabouts of each child visiting the Library.

The Library encourages parents/legal guardians to consider the safety and well-being of their children, as well as the needs of other Library users of all ages. Children under the age of 9 must be accompanied and attended to by a parent/guardian or other responsible person high school age or older who is taking an active role in supervising them.

Unattended children aged 9 and over are free to use the Library's resources as long as needed, provided that their behavior is not disruptive to other patrons or staff members. Parents/guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children in the Library, whether or not the parents/guardians are in attendance.

If at any time a child under the age of 9 is determined to be unattended, the following will occur:

1. Staff will verify if the parent/guardian or caregiver is in the Library. If the parent/guardian or caregiver is in the Library, they will be asked to stay with and supervise the child.
2. If it is determined that a child under the age of 9 is on the Library grounds without an adult caregiver, a staff member will call the parents/guardians and request that they pick up the child. If the parents/guardians cannot be reached within 20 minutes, or if they do not respond within 20 minutes, the Frankfort Police will be contacted, to ensure the safety and well-being of the child.

Parents/guardians are expected to be aware of the Library's hours of operation and to pick up children prior to closing. Staff members will remind children of closing time and allow them to call for transportation or to locate family members using the Library telephone.

If a minor (anyone under the age of 18) is left unattended at closing time, staff will call a parent/guardian or adult caregiver. At least two staff members will wait with the minor. If a parent/guardian or caregiver does not arrive within 15 minutes, the Frankfort Police will be contacted to take custody of the minor. Staff members are forbidden to take children into their own vehicles and may not drive them home.