



Unattended And/Or Unsupervised Children Policy

(Adopted February 2014; revised March 2015; revised July 2017, revised July 2024)

Definitions: For the purposes of this policy, a child is anyone eight years old or younger; a caregiver is any individual thirteen years of age or older who has been given the authority and responsibility to care for a child by the child's parent or legal guardian.

Children aged nine and over are free to use the library's facilities and resources provided their behavior conforms to the Patron Code of Conduct Policy and does not disrupt other library users or staff members. If their behavior is disruptive, children aged nine and over may be asked to leave the building. Children aged 8 and under must be attended and supervised by a parent or caregiver at all times while on library premises. Children of all ages using the Library facilities should know or carry a copy of his/her phone number and address.

Using the following guidelines, the library deems an unattended and/or unsupervised child as any child:

- Found frightened or crying in the library
- Perceived to be endangering themselves
- Perceived as vulnerable to potential harm from another person in the library
- Exhibiting inappropriate behavior in the library
- Has not been met by a responsible caregiver at closing time

If at any time a child aged 8 or under is found unattended, the following steps will occur:

1. The caregiver will be paged in order to determine if he or she is in the library. If the parent or caregiver is in the library, they will be directed to stay with and supervise the child.
2. If it is determined that the child is in the library without a caregiver 13 years of age or older, a staff member will call the guardian to request that they pick up the child. If the responsible adult cannot be contacted or does not respond within 30 minutes, the police will be asked to assume responsibility for the child.
3. Any legal guardian or caregiver not complying with this policy will receive a warning from the Library staff and be advised of the next course of action should non-compliance continue.

When visiting the Library without an adult, children aged 9-14 should have definite arrangements to be picked up at closing time or in emergencies. If a child is left stranded at closing or during an emergency, the following steps will occur:



Stickney-Forest View
Public Library District

"A Welcoming Place Offering A Sense of Community"

6800 West 43rd Street
Stickney, IL 60402
Phone: 708.749.1050
Fax: 708.748.3828

1. A staff member will first call a parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian cannot be contacted or does not arrive within 15 minutes, the police will be asked to assume responsibility for the child.
2. Two Library staff members will stay with the child inside the Library until the parent or the police arrive.
3. Any legal guardian or caregiver not complying with this policy will receive a warning from the library staff and be advised of the Library's next course of action should non-compliance continue.

Library staff may notify the appropriate authorities if they have reason to suspect abuse or neglect.
