

Poplar Bluff Municipal Library District
Unattended Child Policy

Approved 2-2-15; Approved 6-3-19; Approved 8-1-22

The Library welcomes and encourages children to attend Library programs and use Library collections, computers, and services.

For their own safety and security, children under seven years of age must be continually attended by a responsible adult (defined as a parent, guardian, teacher, or assigned caregiver who is sixteen years of age or older) at all times while on Library property. A responsible adult must accompany children between the ages of seven and eleven but does not need to continually attend them so long as the responsible adult is present and available in the building.

The responsible adult is solely responsible for the safety and behavior of minors accompanying them. The Library and its staff does not assume responsibility for children left unattended on Library property and cannot provide child care, be placed in the position of supervising unattended children, or assume responsibility for the safety of children. In the event an unattended child under twelve years of age is found on library property, the child will be placed in the care and control of local law enforcement authorities.

All library users are expected to abide by the Library's Code of Conduct established by the Library Board of Trustees. Library staff will advise children if their behavior is inappropriate and shall ask children (and their responsible adult, if present) to leave the Library if inappropriate behavior continues.

Parents and guardians should be aware of the Library's hours of operation and understand that the Library may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies or safety issues. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to let their children know what they should do if they must leave the Library.

If a child under sixteen years of age is left unattended at the Library at closing time and is not picked up within fifteen minutes of closing, local law enforcement authorities will be contacted and the child will be placed in their care and control.

Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home, take a child outside the building, or remain in the building alone with an unattended child. Two staff members are required to stay with children until they are picked up or placed with local law enforcement authorities.