

Arlington Library Policy	Approved 11-21-2017
Unattended Children in Library	Reviewed 01-20-2021

Introduction: In an effort to provide a Library environment that allows patrons of all ages to use the Arlington Public Library and its collections and services in a safe and unrestricted manner, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted a policy statement concerning unattended children.

Unattended Children

The safety of children left alone in a library building is a serious concern. Librarians, staff, and volunteers are not responsible for children who are unattended. Parents or caregivers may not leave children under the age of seven (7) years old unattended in the Library. A caregiver is defined as someone 14 years of age or older who has the mental and physical capacity to care for the child if emergency should arise. Children between the ages of 7 and 9 should not be left unattended for more than one hour.

Children left Unattended

In the event a child under 7 years of age is left unattended, a child between the ages of 7 and 9 years is left unattended for more than one hour, or a child has been left at the library without a ride or assistance to go home at a normal or weather-related closing time, the staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian or other caregiver. If a parent, guardian or other caregiver cannot be reached within 15 minutes, the Fayette County Sheriff’s Department will be called and the child will be given into their custody. A staff member will remain with the child until the police have arrived. Staff are not permitted to give a child a ride to any location or to leave him or her outside the building after closing.

The Library Director will be informed whenever the above actions become necessary. The Director will contact the child’s parent or guardian to explain the library policy and why the action was required