

BOARD POLICIES

UNATTENDED CHILDREN

Category: Operational

Approved: September 25, 1996

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Rocky River Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use the library and its services. However, the responsibility for the care, safety, and behavior of children rests with the parents/guardian or caregiver and not library staff.

Young children should not be left unattended at Rocky River Public Library. This is an issue of safety and of proper supervision for all children but especially those of 9 years or younger who are required to be supervised while at the library. A parent or appropriate caregiver must remain with such a child. If a child 9 years or younger participates in a library program on their own, a parent or caregiver must remain in the library. A caregiver must be at least 14 years of age and able to attend to the child's health, safety, and behavior.

The library will contact the parent or caregiver of a child ages birth to 9 years without adequate supervision when:

- There is concern for the health or safety of a child.
- The child is frightened.
- The child is disturbing other patrons or staff.

Library staff may call the police for assistance if the parent or caregiver has not been reached within 15 minutes of the staff's attempt to contact the parent or caregiver.

The library staff will ask children ages 10-17 to leave the library when:

- The child is disturbing patrons and staff with excessive noise, inappropriate language, horseplay, or the inability to follow the Patron Code of Conduct.
- The library will contact parents of children ages 10-17 when a pattern of inappropriate behavior is established or in situations that endanger the well-being of other children, patrons or staff at the library.

Children ages 14 and under who do not have transportation when the library is closed will be asked for the telephone number or a parent or caregiver who can pick them up. At no time may library staff transport patrons of any age. Library staff will attempt to stay with children under the age of 14 for 15 minutes. If a parent/caregiver has not arrived at that time, staff will contact the police department.