



UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

Adopted March 16, 2016

Providing a safe and welcoming environment for all Library visitors is important to the Osceola Public Library staff and Library Board. The expectation is that within the shared environment of the Library all patrons will observe the policies instituted by the Library Board.

The Osceola Public Library would like its services and facilities used by visitors of all ages, including children. These children must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or assigned caregiver while they are using the Library.

The safety and well-being of children left alone in the Library is a serious matter for Library employees. However, Library staff cannot be accountable for children who are left unattended or who are displaying inappropriate behavior. Responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the Library rests with the parent or caregiver and not with Library employees.

GUIDELINES

Families should adhere to the following:

- If a child under age 7 is found to be unattended or is involved in inappropriate or disruptive behavior, Library employees will try to find the parent/caregiver and explain the Library's policy. If the parent/caregiver can't be found, or if the child is found unattended or engaged in disruptive behavior again, appropriate measures will be taken in order to ensure the safety of the child and other Library patrons.
- Children older than 7 are welcome to use the Library appropriately on their own. Their parents, however, are still responsible for the actions of their children. Children of this age range who use inappropriate or disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the Library.
- All children should have the name and telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.
- Teenagers are considered as adult Library patrons. Nonetheless, their parents or guardians are still legally responsible for their behavior. Therefore, they should have emergency contact information available.

End of Policy