

UNATTENDED CHILDREN

The library welcomes children to use its facilities and services; however, the safety of children left alone in the library is a serious concern. Responsibility for the behavior and well being of children using the library rests with the parent (or guardian or caregiver assigned by the parent) and not with the library's personnel. Children under the age of 12 are not considered appropriate guardians for their younger siblings in a library setting. Library staff members cannot supervise children in the library.

If a child under 12 years of age is left unattended in the library, and the child's behavior becomes a problem for other patrons or library staff, the library staff will attempt to locate the child's parents. If a parent cannot be reached, the City of Homer Police Department will be called to escort the child home or keep the child until parents can be located. Library employees are not permitted to remain after hours with an unattended child or to give a child a ride home. If a parent cannot be reached by the time the library is to close, the police will be called to escort the child home or keep the child until parents can be reached.

In any situation involving youth safety and specifically whenever parents (or other caregivers) or law enforcement personnel are contacted, staff will complete an Incident Report. In cases of serious violations of the Unattended Children Policy, the library will notify the Alaska Division of Family and Youth Services.

Approved by the LAB on May 23, 2004
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