

Evangeline Parish Library Unattended Children Policy

Introduction

The Evangeline Parish Library Board of Control makes the rules and regulations for the operation of the Library system under the auspices of Louisiana State Law (R.S. 25:211-223). One of the Board's many duties is to establish written policy concerning matters of importance to the Library system.

The following Unattended Children Policy has been part of the Library's Patron Behavior Policy for years (most recently affirmed 8/29/2011.) It is set forth here separately to emphasize its importance and hereby amended for clarity and to incorporate the entire library premises as well as the library facilities.

FOR THEIR SAFETY, CHILDREN UNDER 12 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

To enter the library or to enter anywhere on the library premises, including the parking lot, children under 12 **MUST** have an accompanying adult who will and does maintain active supervision of the child in the library and on the library premises. **ADULT IS DEFINED AS SOMEONE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE.**

Staff may call the police if children 11 years of age or younger are left unattended at any time and a parent or guardian cannot be located. At closing time staff may, **at their discretion, chose** to wait 15 minutes before calling the police to pick up the child and locate the parent or guardian.

Parents or guardians who leave their young children unattended in the library or on the premises at any time may lose their own library privileges.

ALL CHILDREN UNDER 12 MUST REMAIN UNDER VOICE AND VISUAL SUPERVISION OF THE ADULT WHO IS ACCOMPANYING THEM AT ALL TIMES WITHIN THE LIBRARY OR ON THE LIBRARY PREMISES.

ALL CHILDREN UNDER 7 CANNOT BE IN THE COMPUTER AREA OR AT A COMPUTER STATION WITHOUT AN ADULT STAYING AT THE SAME COMPUTER WITH THEM AND DIRECTLY SUPERVISING THEM ON THE COMPUTER. For older children 7 through 11, the adult must stay close enough to visually observe the child and be able to come assist the child if help is needed, or to correct the child's behavior if necessary. All aspects of the Patron Behavior Policy apply to children as well as adults.

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS WHO LEAVE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12 UNATTENDED IN THE LIBRARY AT ANY TIME ARE SUBJECT TO LOSING ALL LIBRARY PRIVILEGES. POLICE MAY BE CALLED FOR UNATTENDED CHILDREN.

Approval/Revision History: Expanded from Patron Behavior Policy (last revision prior to expansion was 08/29/11). Approved as separate policy September 19, 2012.

