

Calhoun County Public Library System

Unattended Children Policy

The Calhoun County Public Library System is a public facility that offers services to a wide range of citizens, and children are especially welcome. The library has the responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is appropriately using its services and facilities. Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same standards of patron conduct expected of adults. Parents, guardians, or assigned chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their children while in the library.

Children under the age of seven should never be left unsupervised in any area of the library. If a parent cannot be located within 10 minutes, the staff will call the local law enforcement to report an abandoned child.

Older children who are disruptive or misbehaving will be asked to leave the library; see policy on "Library Behavior". If the child cannot safely leave the library to return home on his or her own, staff will either allow the child to remain at the library under close supervision until a parent can be contacted or will contact the local law enforcement, depending on the severity of the situation.

Children who are old enough to be in the library on their own will be asked about transportation approximately 15 minutes prior to the library's closing. Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be given the opportunity to call a parent or other responsible adult. Children who have not been picked up within fifteen minutes after closing will be left in the care of the local law enforcement. Under no circumstances will staff transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.

Library Board approved 7/6/00

Commissioners' Court approved 8/00

Library Board approved (revised) 1/6/11

Commissioners' Court approved 1/27/11