

Bird City Public Library

Bird City, Kansas

UNATTENDED CHILDREN and VULNERABLE ADULTS

A primary mission of the Bird City Public Library is to provide a safe, secure, comfortable, and convenient facility for patrons and staff. Although staff is available to assist and provide general guidance, **the Library does not provide childcare services.** Attaining the desired and appropriate environment for children and vulnerable adults requires the communication and cooperation of both staff and parents/caregivers.

The Library encourages children and vulnerable adults to use its facilities and services, and is concerned for their safety around Library facilities, but the Library does not act in place of parents. A parent, legal guardian, teacher, custodian or caregiver is responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of children or vulnerable adults during their Library visits. Library employees do not serve as a substitute for daycare or babysitting. The Library is not responsible for any consequences of parents, legal guardians, teachers, custodians or caregivers not fulfilling their responsibilities.

The Library will adhere to the following guidelines concerning the care and behavior of children and vulnerable adults.

- Children and vulnerable adults who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision while in the Library. A child under the age of six (6) must have a caregiver with them unless that child is attending a library program designed for their age group. Caregivers are encouraged to attend such programs with younger children, but if not attending must return to pick up the child at the end of the program.
- Children age six (6) and over and vulnerable adults who can understand and maintain appropriate behavior and responsible library use, and who can care for themselves, are allowed to be in the library unattended. They should have contact information for someone who can assist them in an emergency.
- Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver when:
 1. The health or safety of an unattended child or vulnerable adult is in doubt
 2. A child or vulnerable adult is frightened while alone at the Library
 3. The behavior of an unattended child or vulnerable adult is disruptive to Library rules and instructions and has caused staff to ask them to leave the Library
 4. An unattended child or vulnerable adult has not been met by a parent/caregiver at closing time or at the end of a planned program

Adopted 4/4/2016

- If a parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver cannot be reached, Library staff will contact law enforcement officials to take charge of the situation.
- Library employees are not permitted to transport children or vulnerable adults away from the Library facilities.

Parents, legal guardians, custodians, caregivers, children and vulnerable adults who are in violation of appropriate behavior are subject to suspension of library privileges.

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