

AD: UNA - Unattended Children

Originated: Mar. 19, 2008

Review: Sep. 2020

Revised:

Approved: Sep. 2020

POLICY:

The Lac La Biche County Library Board hopes that the children who use the library will find the facility to be a warm and inviting place to develop a love of books, reading and the library.

Many programs are offered to make the library enticing to children, but when children are left unattended for several hours when no library programs are offered, they can become disruptive.

IF A PARENT/CAREGIVER FEELS IT IS UNSAFE FOR THE CHILD TO LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION, THE CHILD SHOULD NOT BE IN THE LIBRARY UNATTENDED.

The safety of children left alone in a library building is a serious concern. Library staff and volunteers are not responsible for children who are unattended. Parents or caregivers may not leave children under the age of 10 years unattended in the Library unless they are directly and actively supervised by a responsible caregiver over the age of 12.

In order to create an environment of safety, and maintain an atmosphere where reading and study can be encouraged, the following policy has been created:

CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE SAME RULES AS STATED FOR ALL PATRONS WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS:

1. Parents or guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library and may not leave children under the age of 10 unattended, unless actively supervised as above.
2. If a problem arises with a child and we are unable to locate the parent/guardian or if the library is closing and the parent/guardian cannot be located, the police will be called at the discretion of the staff, after a reasonable amount of time up to 30 minutes.
3. Children, over 10, may be left unattended (at the discretion of their parent/guardian) for a period of time not exceeding two hours with appropriate permission as acceptable to the library staff, during regular school hours. Children left unattended should know how to reach a parent/guardian, and parents should be aware of the closing time of the library.
4. When children are left unattended repeatedly and/or for long periods of time, the Library Director or his designate will notify the parent/guardian of the library's policies and require compliance.
5. Staff members will not transport children from the library to any location. ♦

