



Unattended Child Policy

The Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library welcomes use by children, and staff will assist them in use of Library materials or services. For the child's safety and comfort, a child shall be accompanied by a responsible parent, legal guardian, or caregiver while visiting the library.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy,

- a **child** is anyone under 8 years old
- a **caregiver** is any individual 12 years of age or older who has the authority and responsibility to care for a child by the child's parent or legal guardian.

Policy

The Library does not act *in loco parentis* (in place of parents) and Library staff does not have the authority to take responsibility for your child.

During normal operating hours a child must be *continually* accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or caregiver unless the child is attending a library program.

- If an unattended child calls attention to themselves, Library staff will attempt to locate the parent/legal guardian/caregiver in the library and inform them of the policy.
- If the parent/legal guardian/caregiver cannot be found, the Topeka Police Department will be asked to intervene.

Outside of normal operating hours, if an individual 12 years of age or younger is on library property and a parent/legal guardian/caregiver cannot be located, the Topeka Police Department will be asked to intervene.

Parents/legal guardians/caregivers and children who are in violation of this policy are subject to suspension of library privileges.

Revised and Approved by the Library Board of Trustees, October 20, 2005

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Board of Trustees

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

Questions about this policy? We encourage your feedback in person, by telephone at (785) 580-4400, or at tscpl.org/contact.