



# Unattended Children Policy

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While children are welcomed and encouraged to use the Scott County Public Library, we are concerned about their safety and welfare. Therefore, in the best interest of the child, it is the policy of the Scott County Public Library that children under the age of 12 not be left unattended in the library.

- A responsible parent/legal guardian/caregiver who is at least 16 years in age or older should accompany children under 12 while they are using the library.
- At all times, the parent/legal guardian/caregiver should maintain eye contact with children under 12 while using the library.
- All children under the age of 12 who are attending a program must have a parent/legal guardian/caregiver remain in the Children's area for the duration of the program.

While these ages are set for policy, they do not guarantee the safety of your child. We urge parents to remember that this is a public building. Should a child under the age of 12 be discovered in the library without adequate supervision, the parent/legal guardian/caregiver will be notified, and if cannot be reached on the first try, the Georgetown Police Department will be called.

Children aged 12-17 may use the library unattended and are subject to the Scott County Public Library **Public Conduct Policy** which governs acceptable behavior for all library patrons. Library staff will be guided by this policy in giving verbal warnings for disruptive behavior, followed by notifying the parent/legal guardian/caregiver or the police if such behavior continues.

All children under the age of 18 must be picked up before the library's posted closing time. If a child is alone at closing time, the closing supervisor will attempt to call the parent/legal guardian/caregiver. If the parent/legal guardian/caregiver is reached, the closing supervisor will inform them that staff will wait no more than 10 minutes for the parent/legal guardian/caregiver to arrive before placing the child in the care of the Georgetown Police Department by calling dispatch at 502-863-7820. If the parent/legal guardian/caregiver cannot be reached on the first attempt, the child will be placed in the care of the Georgetown Police Department by calling dispatch at 502-863-7820. A note of explanation will be placed on the library's main entrance door. Under no circumstances shall a library staff member transport a child away from the library building.

Parents should be aware of the library's hours and keep in mind that those hours may change due to holiday schedules, inclement weather, or other unforeseen emergencies. Parents must make contingency plans for the child's immediate pick-up due to unexpected closings. Teachers, daycare providers, or other youth leaders may not leave groups of unattended students in the library or on the bookmobile, regardless of the age of the students. While the library staff provides a wide variety of materials and services to children, including some supervised programs, library staff do not assume parental responsibility and are not considered *in loco parentis*.