

Policy on Unattended Children

St. Charles Parish Library welcomes children in all of its facilities and strives to provide inviting and rewarding library experiences with a wide variety of materials and services to meet their needs. Every child is important and their safety and well-being at the library is of serious concern. Parents/caregivers should be aware that the library is a public building and, as such, is not a safe place to leave children unattended.

Staff members are not allowed to assume responsibility for any child, for any length of time, in the absence of a parent or caregiver. The St. Charles Parish Library and its staff members cannot guarantee or be held accountable or liable for the safety, incidents, accidents or other liabilities arising from the actions of unattended children.

In accordance with state law (R.S. 14:79.1 and 14:93.2.1), children under the age of 10 years may not be left unattended in any branch of the St. Charles Parish Library. A responsible person, an adult or mature adolescent, must accompany and remain within sight of the child at all times. The parent/caregiver is responsible for the behavior of their children while in the library and while attending library programs. Children of all ages are expected to display acceptable behavior while in the library and while attending library programs.

If a child of any age is attending a program at the library, the parent/caregiver is encouraged to stay with the child in the program. However, if the parent/caregiver of a child age 10 or older chooses not to attend the program with the child, they are expected to remain in the library building and immediately join the child at the end of the program. The library staff will not assume responsibility for the child if the parent/caregiver chooses to leave the room during the program.

If a child under the age of 10 is found unattended in the library, library staff will attempt to locate the parent/caregiver and inform him/her of the rules. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found, or if the child is left unattended again, the police will be called for assistance.

Approved January 26, 2016