

Unattended Child Policy

Yankton Community Library (YCL) strives to maintain a safe, inviting, comfortable, and clean environment that allows patrons to freely and safely access library information and resources. YCL welcomes children of all ages to use materials and services. The library staff:

- nurture children to develop a love of reading and learning
- help children find materials for school work and recreational reading
- provide an environment that encourages study and exploration.

Staff members are committed to the well-being and safety of children, but are not responsible for their care, their supervision or for accidents or other incidents that happen to them or that result from their actions. At all times, the responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children lies with the parent, guardian, or designated caregiver (referred to as “Caregiver” going forward), including times when the Caregiver is not present within the library building or on library property. Caregivers are responsible for any actions including, but not limited to monetary responsibility for property damage or loss caused by their children under the age of 18.

Children under the age of eight (8) may not be left unattended in the library. Unattended means that the Caregiver is not actively supervising and/or in the line of sight of the child. Children under the age of eight (8) must be supervised by a caregiver at least fourteen (14) years of age. A child under the age of eight (8) may attend library programs appropriate to their age without the Caregiver in the room provided that the Caregiver remains within the library for the duration of the program. Disruptive children, attended or unattended, may lose computer privileges or be asked to leave the library.

Closing Time:

When visiting the library without an adult, any child under the age of fourteen (14) must make arrangements to be picked up prior to closing time. If a Caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive within fifteen minutes past closing time, the Yankton Police Department may be called to escort the child home or keep the child until a parent or guardian can be reached. Two library employees will stay with the child until the police or Caregiver arrives. An incident report describing the situation will be filed and given to the Library Director. Library staff is not permitted to give an unattended child a ride home.