



Policy 5-12	Child Safety Policy	Created: 4/2/2015 Revised: 10/16/2024 Approved: 11/16/2024
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I. Purpose

This policy explains the parameters for ensuring the safety and well-being of children in the Library.

II. Introduction

Jackson County Library Services welcomes children to use its facilities and services. Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the Library rests with a responsible caregiver, not with library staff. The Library is a public place and Library staff cannot act in loco parentis.

III. Levels of Supervision

Per the Oregon Revised Statutes ORS 163.545, children under 10 years of age must not be left unattended in or at any place for such a period of time as may be likely to endanger the health of welfare of such child. Caregivers are responsible for determining whether children over 10 are ready to visit the library on their own. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or older responsible individual (minimum 14 years of age) at all times in the Library and on the Library grounds or while attending library events offsite. Children age 6 and younger must always be within a safe, accessible distance of the person responsible for their wellbeing. Children are expected to abide by the same rules of conduct as other Library patrons and may be asked to leave the Library if their behavior is inappropriate.

IV. Unattended Child

Library staff are not responsible for unsupervised or unaccompanied children. If Library staff is aware of an unattended child, they will use their judgement and discretion to determine whether the unattended child's safety or well-being is in jeopardy, either while in the Library or if the person was to leave the building. If Library staff determine that an unattended child's safety or well-being is in jeopardy, steps will be taken to contact a parent or legal guardian. If staff are unable to locate a parent or legal guardian, staff will contact appropriate authorities.

V. After Hours of Operation Unattended Child

Library staff are not responsible for children after the hours of operation. For their safety and wellbeing, staff may contact appropriate authorities in the event a child is unaccompanied at Library closing. Staff do not monitor the departure of any child after the library closes.

VI. Programs

During special Library programs for children, a parent, guardian, or older responsible individual must remain onsite if the child in their care is 10 and under until the program has ended, in case an emergency should arise. The responsible adult or older responsible individual must be ready to meet that child promptly when the program ends. Caregivers may also make arrangements clear with the child regarding leaving the Library on their own, or with a designated caregiver. Staff do not monitor the arrival or departure of any child from a program or the building.