



Unattended Children

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The Decatur Public Library is a place where children are welcome. They should feel safe and comfortable on their visits to the Decatur Public Library. They are encouraged to read, attend programs, and make full use of the library's resources. For the safety and wellbeing of children, and the enjoyment of all customers utilizing the library, the library has implemented a policy regarding unattended children up to the age of 11.

While the library is open to all who wish to use the facility, such use must include respect for the rights of others.

1. The Library does not provide care or supervision of children and does not accept responsibility for such care. Parent(s) or other caregiver(s) are responsible for their child's behavior in the library.
2. Children under the age of eleven may not be left unattended in the library. A child under the age of eleven will be considered unattended unless accompanied by a responsible caregiver. Accompaniment includes being in the same area of the library as the child and includes appropriate supervision and enforcement of the Library Patron Code of Conduct for all children under their care. In the event that the parent or legal guardian cannot be reached within 30 minutes, local law enforcement officials will be called. Two staff members will wait with the child until law enforcement officers arrive.
3. Leaving a child unattended in the library is a violation of this policy and the child will be considered a 'child in need of care,' a matter which will be referred to the police department and/or the Department of Human Services/Child Protective Services as appropriate.
4. If a child under the age of eleven is left unattended at the time of the library's closing, the library staff will attempt to notify the child's parent(s) or caregiver(s). If the child's parent(s) or caregiver(s) cannot be reached or has not come to retrieve the child by the time of closing, the police department will be contacted to pick up the child.
5. Under no circumstances will a library staff member drive a child to any location.
6. Unattended children will be given a copy of this policy to provide to their parent(s) or caregiver(s).

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 pick up children at least five minutes before the library's posted closing time.

If you have questions regarding this policy, please contact the Library Director at dwilbert@decaturtx.org.