

## **UNATTENDED CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSON HAZEN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Hazen Public Library strives to maintain a safe environment for library staff and users. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of unattended children and vulnerable person.

An unattended child is any child not accompanied by a parent, guardian or caregiver.

A vulnerable person is a person who can't care for himself/herself independently without the constant attention of a caregiver.

Library staff are not trained or expected to provide care and supervision for children or other persons in need of constant attention. The parent, guardian or caregiver is responsible for monitoring the activities and regulating the behavior of children or other persons requiring supervision during their library visit. The library is not responsible for any consequences of parents, legal guardians or caregivers not fulfilling their responsibilities.

The library acknowledges that children mature at different ages. These rules are subject to the discretion of library staff who may apply them to children other than the ages stated below if they deem it necessary.

Children under the age of 8 and vulnerable people of any age must have a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver at least 12 years old in the immediate vicinity.

Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, or caregiver when:

- The health or safety of a child or vulnerable person is in doubt;
- A child or vulnerable person is frightened while alone at the library;
- The behavior of a child or vulnerable person disturbs other library patrons and has caused staff to ask the individual to leave the library;
- A child or vulnerable person has not been met by a parent, guardian or caregiver at closing time.

If a parent, guardian or caregiver can't be reached, the police will be notified at the nonemergency number (701-748-2414) and asked to assist in the successful resolution of the situation.

### **At Closing**

Library employees will notify the Library Supervisor of any unattended child or vulnerable person still present in the library 30 minutes prior to closing. Staff will help these people contact a parent, guardian or caregiver for a ride.

If an unattended child under 12 or a vulnerable person of any age has not successfully contacted a parent, guardian or caregiver at closing, or that caregiver has not arrived by closing, contact the police at the non-emergency number (701-748-2414). Staff will stay with the child up to 30 minutes after closing.

Under no circumstances will staff take the unattended person to another location.

Adopted: November 26, 2019

Effective: November 26, 2019

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