

SAFE CHILD POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

The Davie County Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use its materials and services. The staff encourages children to develop a love of reading and learning, but is not responsible for their care and supervision. The library is a doorway through which life-long learning takes place. It is, however, a public building that anyone can enter and leave without being observed by library staff. A young child left alone in the library could possibly be persuaded to leave with a stranger. He or she could also become ill or disoriented while left unattended. The public library does not assume the role of surrogate parent to children. The library staff does not monitor the behavior, safety, or whereabouts of people using the library.

RESPONSIBILITY

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the care, safety and behavior of their children under the age of 18, both within the library building and on library grounds, regardless of whether or not they accompany their child(ren).

SUPERVISORY GUIDELINES FOR CHILD SAFETY

Children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by a responsible caregiver.

- For reasons of safety, children under the age of 7 should be under immediate supervision (parent, legal guardian or appointed caregiver over the age of 16) at all times while visiting the library.
- Children ages 7-11 need not be in the immediate presence of a caregiver but one should be somewhere in the building.
- During library sponsored programs the parent/caregiver must remain in the library building if given the option of leaving the programming area.

The library's RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF THE LIBRARY Policy applies to all patrons, regardless of age.

The library's SAFE CHILD POLICY applies to dependent adults with caregivers.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN AT CLOSING TIME

- Staff members will ask any unattended minors under the age of 16 in the library just prior to closing how he/she is going to reach home. Staff will offer the use of the phone to call a parent/caregiver.
- If a minor has no parent/caregiver with them at closing time, two staff members will wait with the minor for up to 15 minutes after closing time.
- If no parent/caregiver can be reached, the staff will call Davie County Health and Human Services and the local police department to ensure the minor's safety until the parent/caregiver can be located.
- If the child is placed into care by Davie County Health and Human Services and/ or the police department a notice will be placed on the front door informing anyone looking for the child to contact law enforcement officials.