

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Children - Unattended Policy

Statement of Policy

The Contra Costa County Public Library welcomes children. A child's parents or guardians are responsible for the child's safety and behavior when the child is in the library, even if the parents or guardians are not present. Young children may not be left unattended anywhere in the library, including areas designed for children. A parent, guardian or responsible individual who is at least fifteen years of age must accompany children under the age of eight when they are using the library. The responsible individual must supervise, guide and control the behavior of their charge or charges at all times.

Library staff are available to be a resource for children, but cannot assume responsibility for a child in the absence of a parent or guardian.

Need for the Policy

When children are left unattended, they may become frightened, restless, or disruptive. Unattended children may create a physical danger for themselves or others, and may interfere with other patrons' use and enjoyment of the library.

Requirements and Guidelines

Library staff cannot assume responsibility for the safety and well-being of any child in the absence of a parent, guardian or caregiver.

Library staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of the child if a child is unattended or under-attended / ignored and one or more of the following events occur:

- the behavior of the child is disruptive or inappropriate
- the child appears to be a danger to herself or himself or others
- the child appears to be threatened by others
- the child appears to be ill or upset
- the child has not been met by a parent or caregiver at closing

If a parent or guardian cannot be located, library staff will contact police, or County Sheriff, or the County's Child Protective Services 24-hour emergency response hotline. In the event of an emergency, library staff will call 911.