

Livermore Public Library Unattended Children Policy

I. Purpose

The Livermore Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for patrons of all ages. The Livermore Public Library wants children to use its facilities and services. The Civic Center Library and branches, however, are public buildings, and any public place may be dangerous or frightening for a child who is left unattended even for a brief time. Library facilities are neither designed for nor licensed to provide childcare. The purpose of this policy is to communicate the importance of caregivers being present with their children at the Library and to guide staff in handling children who are in the Library unattended.

II. Policy

Children in the Library should be accompanied by a parent/guardian or assigned caregiver. Parents and caregivers are solely responsible for the welfare and the behavior of their children using the Library. Children aged seven or younger must be supervised by a responsible caregiver at all times while they are in the Library. The safety of children left alone in a library building is a serious concern of the library staff. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests with the parent or caregiver and not with library personnel.

If a child aged seven or younger is found to be unattended in any area of the Library (or an unattended child aged eight or older is found in distress), staff will stay with the child while they attempt to locate the child's caregiver. If Library staff cannot find the child's parent or caregiver, the Livermore Police will be notified and asked to assume care of the child.

If a child is found unattended in the library at closing and staff determine that it is not safe for the child to wait for a caregiver alone, two members of staff will stay inside the library with the child while they attempt to contact a caregiver. If a parent or caregiver cannot be located or cannot take responsibility for the child in a timely manner, the Livermore Police will be notified and asked to assume care of the child.

Children age 8 and older may use the library on their own. However, parents are still responsible for the actions and the well-being of their children. Children violating the Patron Responsibility and Conduct Policy may be asked to leave the library. If a child in this age group is not able to leave the library without an adult, he/she should not be in the library alone. All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees May 26, 2016