



Unattended Children Policy

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Purpose and Policy Statement

The Library District encourages children of all ages to visit and use our resources. The safety and welfare of children in the library are of paramount importance. However, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District is not the guarantor of the safety of the children who use our facilities. Our facilities are open to the public, and not all areas are supervised at all times. This situation can present risks to children. Therefore, the responsibility for the care, safety, and behavior of children in the library rests with the parent(s), guardian(s), or caregiver (age 14+), not with library staff. Staff are mandated to report any unusual activity related to the safety and/or security of minors to the Person-in-Charge (PIC) and law enforcement or Child Protective Services (CPS).

Child Supervision Procedures:

- Self-supervised youth aged 10 and up are welcome to use the library on their own as long as they are able to follow the **Library Rules of Conduct** and know their parents' or guardians' name(s) and contact information. Any child under the age of 10 should be supervised by a caregiver (age 14+) designated by a parent or guardian who assumes responsibility. The parent, guardian, or caregiver must remain in the immediate area (within sight) of the child.
- If a child wishes to leave the library, the library staff cannot legally detain him or her, unless reasonably prudent for the health and safety of the child.
- Parents or designated caregivers (age 14+) should monitor all activities and behavior of their children while they are in the library. Children and their parent(s), guardian(s), or designated caregiver(s) may be asked to leave the premises for not following the Library Rules of Conduct.
- If a minor—anyone under the age of 18—is left at a library at closing time, in the event of an emergency situation, or if the minor needs to go home due to behavioral issues, staff will attempt to contact the parents or designated transportation. If the parent or designated transportation cannot be contacted, staff will immediately notify the police.
- In the event an emergency forces the immediate closing of a library, children and designated caregivers (age 14+) should know what procedure to follow as determined by the child's parents or guardian.

Effective Date: **03/12/2026**


New

Revised

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LO 100-26-POL.3.P

Originating Department: **Library Operations**

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- Library staff are required to report all incidents of suspected child abuse and/or neglect "as soon as reasonably practical."
 - Under no circumstances will a staff member ever take a child out of the library or give them or arrange for a ride home.
 - Subject to Venue Use Policy for special events.

A child is considered “unattended” if they are:

- Under the age of 10 and not in the immediate area (within sight) of a responsible caregiver.
- Engaged in disruptive behavior, and the caregiver is not in the immediate area to intervene.
- Left at the library after closing time.

Adoption

Adopted by the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District Board of Trustees on October 09, 1997; revised and adopted on March 12, 2026, and implemented on April 1, 2026.