

## Ida Public Library

### Unattended Children in the Library Policy

**Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children in the Library, whether or not the parents or guardians are in attendance.**

Ida Public Library encourages parents to consider the safety and well-being of their children and the needs of other Library users of all ages. Parents or guardian/caregiver must control and prevent behavior that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation of the Library or disturbs Library users or staff.

Children ages 10 and over are free to use the Library's facilities and resources, provided their behavior conforms to the Code of Conduct and does not disrupt other Library users or staff members.

Children under age 10 must be attended and supervised by a parent or guardian/caregiver age 18 years or older at all times while on Library premises.

The Library welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children. Library staff members are committed to the well-being and safety of children, and are happy to help children use the Library. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended and unsupervised by a parent or guardian/caregiver. It is impossible for Library staff to guarantee a safe environment. Library facilities are not licensed or designed to provide basic childcare needs such as adult supervision, nutrition or emergency care. Library staff do not serve as in loco parentis (in place of the parent) and are not trained to supervise children.

If at any time a child under age 10 is unattended and/or unsupervised the following will occur:

- The parent or guardian/caregiver will be called in order to determine if they are in the Library. If the parent or guardian/caregiver is in the Library, they will be directed to stay with and supervise the child.
- If it is determined that the child is in the Library without a parent or a guardian/caregiver age 18 years or older, a staff member will call the parent or guardian/caregiver and request that they pick up the child. If the parent or

guardian/caregiver cannot be reached within 30 minutes or does not respond within 30 minutes, the police will be asked to assume responsibility.

- Anyone not complying with this Unattended Children Policy will first be warned by Library staff and will then be advised of the next course of action to be taken by the Library, should noncompliance continue.

**Library staff may notify the appropriate authorities if they have reason to suspect abuse or neglect.**

If a minor child is left unattended at closing, staff will first call a parent or guardian/caregiver. If the parent and/or guardian/caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive within 30 minutes, the police will be asked to assume responsibility. Two Library staff members will stay with the child inside the Library until the parent and/or guardian/caregiver or police arrive.