

MINOR PATRONS POLICY

The Warren County Library is concerned for the safety and well-being of children left unattended in the library. We urge parents to remember that the library is a public building, and it is not in the child's best interest to be left unattended. The library has implemented the following policy for the safety of all children visiting the library:

1. Children under the age of 6 years must be accompanied by an adult caregiver (age 13 or over) at all times while in the library.
2. Children 6-8 years of age must have an adult caregiver (age 13 or over) present in the library.
3. Children aged 9-12 may be left alone in the library for reasonable periods of time, but parents are responsible for their behavior and will be contacted if necessary. (Reasonable periods of time may vary with the child's maturity, but generally 2 hours is acceptable.)
4. Children aged 13 and over may be in the library without an adult. Should problems arise, the library may ask the child to leave or contact a parent.

If problems arise while children are using the library or if they are left alone, the library staff will attempt to contact the parents. If the library staff is unable to reach the parents or guardian, other appropriate action will be taken. **Parents are required to be at the library before closing to pick up children.**

Definitions:

An **unattended child** is any child under the age of 9 who is in the library unaccompanied by a parent or responsible caregiver (age 13 or over), or whose parent or responsible caregiver is not present in the library, as the case may be. An **unattended child** shall also include any child between the ages of 9 and 12 who is left unattended for an unreasonable period of time, as the case may be.

A **vulnerable child** is any child who would be at risk if sent out of the library building.

Parents, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior of the children using the library.

ADOPTED BY THE WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION APRIL 20, 2000