

Subject: Unattended and Disruptive Children

Purpose:

To provide a safe environment for patrons of all ages and to establish a protocol for children who are disruptive or left unattended in the libraries. Appropriate behavior is defined in the Library's Code of Conduct.

Policy:

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is a public facility that has the responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is appropriately using its services and facilities. Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same standards of conduct as adults. Parents, guardians, caregivers or assigned chaperones are responsible for the behavior and safety of their children while in the library. Children should not be in the library unattended. Library staff cannot provide childcare or be responsible for the safety of children while they are in the library. Children should not be left alone in vehicles while the caregiver is in the library.

Children Under Age 8

Children under the age of 8 must have a parent/accompanying adult in the immediate vicinity of and in visual contact with the child in every section of the library. If it is determined that a child is lost or unattended, staff shall try to locate the parent or accompanying adult in the library. If a parent or accompanying adult cannot be located, staff will call the Christiansburg Police, Blacksburg Police, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department or Floyd County Sheriff's Department to report an abandoned child.

Disruptive Children

Disruptive behavior is any form of behavior that seriously or constantly disrupts library patrons or staff, damages library property, interferes with library services or endangers the well being of the disruptive child or others. Adults or assigned chaperones accompanying disruptive children of any age will be reminded that appropriate behavior for their children is a requirement of the library. Children may also be directly reminded by staff. If the disruptive behavior continues, accompanying adults and the children will be asked to leave the library. If the child is alone and cannot safely leave the library on his or her own, staff will ask the child to call a parent. If a parent cannot be located, library staff will call the local police or sheriff's department, depending upon the severity of the situation.

Closing Time

Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be asked to call a parent or responsible adult who can pick them up. After 15 minutes, staff will notify local police

or sheriff's department. Under no circumstances will staff transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.

Attachments: [Library Code of Conduct](#)

References: None

Approved:

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board of Trustees

October 17, 2001; revised September 21, 2011.

September 21, 2011

Date



Ann-Margaret Shortt, Chair