

	Policy Title UNATTENDED CHILDREN	Policy Number 2.4
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I. Purpose

- a. Libraries are open, public buildings and the wellbeing and safety of children in the Library is a matter of concern. Unattended children may encounter circumstances they are unprepared to handle effectively, leading to unsafe situations or behaviors. As such, children under the age of 12 must be supervised while in the Library.

II. Unattended Children Practices

- a. Children under the age of 12, and those older children with special needs, should be attended and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian or caregiver. Any designated caregivers, including siblings must be at least 12 years of age.
- b. If a child is being disruptive, is habitually left unattended for long periods of time, or is deemed to be at risk of harm, an effort will be made to locate the responsible parent, guardian, or caregiver.
- c. If the responsible individual cannot be located in the building, or within 30 minutes at home, the child will be placed in the care of the Camas Police Department.
- d. If a child is found unattended at the end of the Library's business day, a Library staff member will attempt to call a responsible party. The Library staff members will wait for 15 minutes after closing for the child to be picked up. If attempts to contact a responsible party fail, or if the transportation does not arrive within 15 minutes, the police will be contacted.

III. Library Materials

- a. Parents are responsible for supervising their children's access to Library materials. It will be assumed that children who visit the Library unattended are authorized to use the full range of materials available.