

**Ashland Public Library  
Public Services Policy**

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Effective Date:  
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Unattended Child  
November 10, 2022  
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**DURING LIBRARY BUSINESS HOURS**

The Library welcomes and encourages patrons of all ages to visit the Library and to take advantage of the programs, services, and resources that it offers. Responsibility for the safety and behavior of minors always rests with the parent, guardian, or assigned adult caregiver and not with Library staff. Library staff cannot act in *loco parentis* nor supervise unattended or unaccompanied minor children. Children under age 9, especially, should be closely supervised by a parent or responsible caregiver. Parents or guardians will be held responsible for damage to items or equipment caused by their minor child.

Library staff will note disruptions caused by children who are unattended or unaccompanied. Children displaying inappropriate or destructive behavior will be informed of the rules. If the behavior continues, the child may be asked to leave the Library. If a child is unaccompanied by an adult or appropriately-aged caregiver, and, in the judgment of the staff, is too young to return home unaccompanied, the staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, or assigned caregiver. The Ashland City Police may be asked to intervene if the situation warrants. The Trustees and employees will not be held responsible for incidents, accidents or other liability arising from the actions of unattended children.

**AT CLOSING TIME**

No unaccompanied minor child shall be ejected from the library at closing time. The Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, or assigned caregiver up to 15 minutes after closing. After that time, staff will call the police regarding the unaccompanied child.