



Unattended Children Policy

Approved: Sept. 15, 2022

I. Purpose

The West Fargo Public Library is a public entity that welcomes people of all ages and aims to provide a consistent, safe environment for all people to explore and learn. The library offers hundreds of programs and services that encourage engagement and foster new opportunities for people at various life stages, including young children. Therefore, for the protection and well-being of children who visit the West Fargo Public Library, the following policy has been established.

II. Policy

It is not the West Fargo Public Library's intention to seek out unattended children, but rather to have a reasoned response prepared when a problem presents itself.

1. Children under the age of five (5) must be accompanied and directly supervised by a parent, guardian, or designated caregiver (aged 13+) at all times in the library. This includes during storytimes and other programs or special events.
2. Parents, guardians, or designated caregivers (aged 13+) are responsible for the conduct of the child(ren) under their supervision while visiting the library. If a child's conduct interferes with another patron's ability to use the library and/or is in violation of posted policies, the child(ren) and their parent, guardian, or designated caregiver (aged 13+) will be asked to leave the building.
3. Parents, guardians, or designated caregivers (aged 13+) may not leave the library premises while their child(ren) younger than ten (10) are attending a library-sponsored program.
4. Children ten (10) and older should be familiar with and adhere to West Fargo Public Library policies and hours of service. A child, old enough to use the library alone, whose conduct interferes with another patron's ability to use the library and/or is in violation of posted policies will be asked to leave the library building. Children should know how to reach a parent, guardian, or caregiver during their visit.
5. West Fargo Public Library staff are not responsible for supervising children left alone when the library is closing. If arrangements have not been made for immediate pick-up, the West Fargo Police Department will be contacted and asked to assume care of the child. Library staff will remain with the child until an officer arrives.

III. Implementation

West Fargo Public Library staff are responsible for enforcing this policy. Parents, guardians, or designated caregivers (aged 13+) or the appropriate authorities may be contacted if any child is left unattended in or on West Fargo Public Library premises.