

Unattended Child

Approved by: Library Board

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Review Schedule: Every 5 years

Next Review Date: 2022

Ramsey County Library offers many programs and services that encourage children to develop a love of books, reading and learning. The staff in each of the Ramsey County Library buildings strives to create an inviting and fun environment for children.

Parents and caregivers must be aware that libraries are public buildings and it is not in the best interest of children to be left unattended. Children under the age of eight are required to be accompanied by an adult or a responsible older adolescent. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of their minor children in the Library or on Library grounds whether they accompany them or not. Ramsey County Library does not take responsibility for children using the Library.

If an unattended child* comes to the attention of Library staff, staff will make a good faith attempt to contact the parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the child will be referred to the local law enforcement agency.

Library staff cannot be expected to monitor or prevent an unattended minor child from leaving the building.

* An unattended child is an unattended child of any age whose safety or well-being would be at risk if sent outside the Library building. Examples include: a child who is too young to be on his/her own, a child in an unsafe area, or a child left alone outside of the library after business hours. Although this definition may apply to older children, it applies to all children under the age of eight. Children under the age of eight are required to be accompanied by an adult or responsible older adolescent.