

Young Patron Safety

Waverly Public Library
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Waverly, IA 50677

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Waverly Public Library Young Patron Safety Policy

The Board of Trustees and the staff of the Waverly Public Library are concerned for the safety and welfare of children who use the library unattended by an appropriate supervisor. An “appropriate supervisor” is a parent, guardian, or responsible person who is 12 years of age or older who is supervising the child.

DURING LIBRARY HOURS:

Children are always welcome. Children age 5 or younger must be accompanied by a supervisor while in the library.

Children age 6 and older may use the library unaccompanied by a supervisor as long as their behavior is acceptable, as governed by the library’s behavior policy. However, parents and/or guardians remain responsible for their children’s behavior in the library. It is not the intent of the library staff to seek out unattended children, but staff members may be alerted to the situation if a child is frightened, ill, or disruptive.

For the purposes of this policy, “unattended” means that the supervisor is not in the library building directly supervising the child.

Children age 5 or younger, left unattended while the library is open:

1. Staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian and request that they come immediately for the child. A library staff member will stay with the child until a supervisor arrives to take charge of the child. Under no circumstances shall a library staff member take the child off the campus. The parent or guardian will be informed of library policy.
2. Staff will contact the police if the parent or guardian cannot be contacted.

WHEN THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED:

Children (under the age of 12) left unattended *at closing*: If the **parent or guardian** cannot be located within 15 minutes after the library closes, based on the best judgment of the staff, the police may be contacted to take charge of the child until a parent or guardian is found. Under no circumstances shall a library staff member take the child off the campus.

DURING LIBRARY PROGRAMMING:

During library programming when minors without a supervisor are present:

- Programming during library hours (on-site) -- at least two staff members will be in the building.
- Programming after-hours (on-site) -- there will be at least one staff member plus one adult.
- Programming off-site -- there will be at least one staff member plus one adult.

An attempt will be made to have an increased adult presence when larger programs are expected.

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Reviewed. No change. 10 26 2004pc

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