

Section 3.3

Unattended Children

As a public institution, Greenville Area Public Library's doors are open to all regardless of origin, age, background, and views. Since the Library is an open, public building and the well being and safety of young children left alone is a serious concern. Library staff should not be placed in the position of supervising children. In order to avoid the disruption of normal Library operations and services, for the safety and protection of youth patrons, and for the benefit of all, the GAPL had developed the following rules:

1. ALL CHILDREN, AGED 12 AND UNDER, MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT OR RESPONSIBLE ADOLESCENT.

The Library assumes no responsibility for an unattended child. The person-in-charge must stay with the child, unless the child is participating in a program. If a staff member finds an unattended child under the age of 12, the following steps will be taken:

- a. The staff will determine if the parent is in the Library. If so, the staff member and child will attempt to locate the parent.
- b. If the parent is not in the Library, the staff member will attempt to contact the parent at home or work using information provided by the child, the parent will be told that their child must be picked up immediately.
- c. If the parent cannot be located, or if a contacted parent has not picked up their child within a half hour of being called, the staff member will contact the Police.

2. SELF-SUPERVISED YOUTH, AGED 13 AND UP, ARE WELCOME TO USE THE LIBRARY AS LONG AS THEIR BEHAVIOR IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BEHAVIOR RULES.

Parents should make sure that their children are sufficiently mature before allowing them to visit the library by themselves. Parents should be advised that if their children misbehave, they might be told to leave the library and the library grounds. Parents should further realize that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for their children's behavior.

3. Staff is not responsible for the safety of a child once the library has closed. Staff will attempt to contact parents. If they are unsuccessful, the police may be summoned to assist the youth. Under no circumstance will a staff member ever take a child out of the library or give a child a ride home.

4. THE LIBRARY IN NO WAY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY CHILD LEFT UNATTENDED IN THE LIBRARY.

5. THE ONLY TIME A CHILD CAN BE LEFT UNATTENDED IS IF THE CHILD IS PARTICIPATING IN THE LIBRARY SPONSORED PROGRAMS.

The child must be picked up as soon as the programs have ended.