

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The purpose of Julia Hull District Library's policy on unattended children is to ensure the safety of children using the Library. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. While the Library encourages children of all ages to use the Library, it does not provide childcare nor assume any parental responsibilities for children while they are in the Library. Parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring their children's safety, activities, and behavior while visiting the Library.

A child left unattended in the Library in violation of this policy, or a child any age habitually left unattended, may be deemed to be at risk. In such situations, Library staff may contact local law enforcement and/or child protective authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of the child.

- Children under the age of eight (8) may not be left unattended in the library and must be directly supervised by a responsible adult or caregiver sixteen (16) years and older with no exceptions.
- Children eight (8) and older may be left unattended providing they are mature enough to follow Library rules and observe proper conduct. Such children are subject to the same rules of behavior as other patrons and the same consequences apply, including being asked to leave the Library. In such cases, if a parent or caregiver cannot be contacted or located within fifteen (15) minutes, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department will be contacted to take custody of the child.
- Staff are not expected to stay with children under the age of sixteen (16) who are left unattended at closing time. If an unattended child or staff member is unable to contact a parent or guardian at closing time, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department may be contacted.
- Parents of children not picked up promptly at closing time will be given a letter stating the Library's hours of operation and policy regarding children left unattended when the Library is closed.
- Library employees are not permitted to provide children or any other patron rides in personal vehicles.