

# Safe Child Policy

Tazewell County Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children and their families to visit the Library frequently, use Library collections and services, and attend Library programs. The library staff is available to assist children with their use of Library resources. However, the Library cannot provide child care or assume responsibility for children's/minors' safety.

Parents, guardians and/or caregivers, not the Library staff, are responsible for the safety of children visiting the Library. Parents, guardians and/or caregivers must remember that the library is a public building open to all so a child's safety cannot be assured or assumed. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving with persons who are not the appropriate chaperone.

Staff cannot be placed in the position of supervising unattended children. Unattended children are children of any age who are apparently unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible caregiver in the library.

## Disruptive Behavior

Parents, guardians and/or caregivers are advised that children, like all Library users, are expected to comply with the Library's "Code of Conduct." Parents, guardians and/or caregivers accompanying children of any age who are being disruptive will be reminded that appropriate behavior of their children is a requirement of the library. Children may also be directly reminded by staff. If the disruptive behavior continues, accompanying adults and the children will be asked to leave the library.

## Children Under Age 12

Children under the age of 12 must not be left at the library without a parent, guardian, or caregiver unless they are attending a library program and parents, guardians and/or caregivers have given emergency contact information to the appropriate library staff member.

## Closing Time

Parents, guardians and/or caregivers must inform themselves as to scheduled Library closing times and be aware that a Library facility sometimes may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies, safety issues, or weather conditions. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians and/or caregivers to give children/minors their contact information and inform them about what they should do if the library has to close early.

If a child is left unattended when the Library closes at its regular time (or for situations mentioned above) two Library staff members will wait with the child for 15 minutes past closing, after which time they will call the police or sheriff's department. Under no circumstances will staff transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees, August 27, 2015