

San Juan County Library
Unattended/Disruptive Children Policy
September 2022

Preface

The San Juan County Library encourages children to use its facilities and services. However, parents and legal guardians are responsible for their minor children, and their behavior in the library or on library grounds, whether or not they accompany them. Parents and guardians are also responsible to keep their contact information updated in case of emergencies or other concerns. The library has neither the staff nor the legal authority to supervise children in the library. A minor child left unattended in the library may become disruptive or frightened, ill or injured. They may also become bored and restless and could disrupt the enjoyment and work of others.

Policy Statement

The library in no way assumes responsibility for any minor left unattended in or on library premises and should not be considered a child care option.

For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver must accompany children under the age of 8 years. A child of this age is considered unattended if he/she is in the library or on library premises without a parent or caregiver who is at least 12 years of age. A child is also considered unattended if they are in a different area of the library than the parent/caregiver, or parent/caregiver is pre-occupied with other activities, preventing them from being aware of the activities of the child.

If a child under the age of 8 years is found to be unattended in the library (that is, if the responsible adult/caregiver is not on the library premises) at any time, library may take action necessary to resolve the situation. If necessary, the library may ask the police to take the child into custody for the child's protection. Children who become disruptive will be asked to leave the library premises. Failure to comply may result in the police being called. At no time is a staff member to give a ride to a minor.

If a minor child of any age becomes disruptive at any time the library staff may take action necessary to resolve the situation.

Disruptive behavior is defined as any behavior within the library or on library premises that infringes on the rights of others using the library or behavior that endangers the child or others.

The library is not responsible for any children who are outside the building while awaiting transportation or are socializing.

Remember that parents/guardians and caregivers, *not library staff*, are responsible for the safety and behavior of children within the library and on library premises.

This Policy has been updated and adopted by the San Juan County Library Board of Trustees.

Library Board Chairperson: Ramona Chamberlain

Date: 9/20/22