



UNATTENDED CHILDREN OR VULNERABLE ADULT POLICY

Lincoln County Library offers welcoming spaces that encourage patrons to explore, create and connect. Library staff strive to provide a safe environment for all customers, but safety cannot be guaranteed. While Library staff are committed to helping children and vulnerable adults with activities and materials at the libraries, staff cannot act as care providers or disciplinarians.

- Library staff are not responsible for the care of unattended children and vulnerable adults and cannot act in lieu of parents, guardians, caregivers or trained staff.
- Library staff are not responsible for children or vulnerable adults interacting with or leaving the library with persons who are not appropriate caregivers.
- Parents and guardians should be sure their children, whether accompanied or alone, understand and abide by the policies of the Library.
- Children under the age of 9 may not be left unsupervised anywhere on the library premises. If a child misbehaves, the parent or guardian is expected to correct the behavior. If the parent fails to do so, both the parent and child may be asked to leave the library. If a parent or guardian cannot be located, law enforcement or Child and Family services will be contacted.
- Children ages 10 and over are welcome to use the library independently. Children are expected to adhere to the rules of conduct outlined in the Customer Conduct policy. Those who do not may be asked to leave and parents and/or law enforcement will be notified as deemed necessary by staff.
- Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be given the opportunity to call a parent, guardian, or caregiver. Children who have not been picked up after closing time will be left in the care of law enforcement. Under no circumstance will a library staff member transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.
- Organized groups of children, such as school classes, must be supervised by adults in their group at all times while in the library.

Adopted 11/06, Revised 6/12, Revised 3/17, Revised 7/23