

**CHAPTER 6**  
**SECTION B**  
**UNATTENDED CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

All patrons are expected to comply with the Library Rules of Conduct Policy. Parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children and/or vulnerable adult while in the library.

Children under the age of 8 must be attended by a parent, guardian, caregiver or family member at least 12 years old. Children age 8 years and older are also defined as unattended but supervision is not required as long as they are able to care for themselves and refrain from disruptive behavior (see Rules of Conduct Policy).

Vulnerable adults are individuals age 18 or over who, because of age, developmental disability, mental illness, or physical disability, require supervision or personal care, or lack the personal and social skills required to live independently. Vulnerable adults must be attended by a guardian or caregiver. Guardians and caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of the vulnerable adult in their care while in the library.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Unattended Children and Vulnerable Adult Policy is to ensure the happiness and safety of young children and vulnerable adults in the library.

It is not the library's intent to seek out unattended children, but rather to have a reasoned response prepared should problems present themselves. The following policy and procedures seek to address these concerns for the children in a responsible manner.

**APPLICATION**

- Children under the age of 8 years must be within visual sight of the parent, guardian or caregiver at all times, including during programs and visits to the restroom.
- Staff will not be responsible if unattended children of any age leave the library premises alone or with other persons. Staff will not be responsible for children 8 years or older who may be asked to leave the library if they are in violation of the Library's Rules of Conduct Policy
- If a child under the age of 8 or vulnerable adult is left alone, library staff will attempt to contact the child's parent, guardian or caregiver; if no one can be reached, staff will call the police to ensure the child's safety.
- We ask that parents, guardians and caregivers pick up their unattended child (over the age of 8) before closing time. If an unattended child is left at the library, staff will call the police to determine the proper course of action for the child.

- While the Ellensburg Public Library recognizes service to young children as a primary role, the staff cannot assume the parent's responsibility for the safety, care, supervision, or entertainment of the children.

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