

POLICY MANUAL

Fallon County Library Baker MT

Unattended Children Policy

A growing concern is the number of young children left unattended in the library. The library is a public building available for the use of all residents. Because it is a place where children gather, it may attract people whose interest in children is not entirely wholesome. The library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children but will intervene if aware of a problem. For the protection and well-being of children who enjoy libraries, the following policy has been established:

Fallon County Library requires that parents (or a designated person over the age of 12 years) be responsible for children under the age of 8 while they are visiting the Library. Children attending programs are supervised by the library staff only during the scheduled time of the program.

The Library cannot guarantee the safety of children left unsupervised on the premises or in a public building.

Parents and caregivers should be familiar with the library's hours of operation and should not leave children before opening or after closing. Also, close attention must be paid to unexpected closings (storms, power outages, etc.). Prior arrangements and contingency plans for IMMEDIATE pick-up should be discussed with the child. The library staff is not responsible for supervising children left alone when the library is closed. Minors will not be left alone on the premises at closing time. The police department will be notified if any child has been left too long or repeatedly in this unsafe situation.

Reviewed/Approved: **10/9/18**