

Unattended Minors Policy

Adopted March 20, 2018 by the South Georgia Regional Library Board of Trustees

To fulfill South Georgia Regional Library system's mission and purpose, provide an atmosphere conducive to the appropriate use of the Library's services and facilities, and provide for the safety, comfort, and welfare of patrons of all ages, The Library has adopted the following policy:

- The Library is not responsible for the care of unattended minors (a minor is any individual under 18 years old).
- The Library will provide services consistent with its mission statement but will not act as, nor provide services associated with daycare, after-school care facility, summer camp, or babysitting service. Attendance at Library programs, browsing for recreational reading, and use of the Library for homework and study are encouraged and considered appropriate.
- The Library will make no determination as to the suitability or authority of anyone arriving or being contacted to transport a minor from Library grounds or for minors leaving Library grounds with either another minor or an adult.
- Parents, guardians, and care providers must supervise and provide guidance and control for their charges at all times. Adult supervision must be provided to all children under the age of 12. Parents, guardians, and care providers are responsible for all minors in Library spaces and on Library property. Children under the age of 12 may not be left unattended in the Library or on Library property.
- Children between the ages of 12 and 15 should not be left unattended in the Library for extended periods of time. In general, the Library considers more than 2-3 hours (depending on the age, maturity level, and conduct of the child) to be excessive and inappropriate. Parents, guardians, and care providers may be notified and asked to pick-up and/or provide supervision for their child.
- Unattended minors who do not abide by Library rules and policies, or who exhibit unacceptable behavior, will be asked to leave, and/or parents, guardians, or care providers will be called for a ride. If a minor is unable to contact his or her parents, guardians, or care providers, or if a ride does not arrive after 30 minutes, the minor may be considered abandoned and the authorities called.
- The Library is not responsible for minors without a ride home at closing. Minors without a ride home at Library closing time may be considered abandoned and the authorities called. Library employees will not transport minors to any location.
- The Library or Library staff does not assume responsibility or liability for children asked to leave the property or for children who leave the property of their own accord.
- All Library employees and volunteers are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse.