

# RIVERDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

## UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The Riverdale Public Library District is committed to providing a safe space and environment for patrons of all ages and welcomes the use of the library by children for their academic, informational, and recreational needs. As a public facility, the library takes the available precautions to ensure the safety of all patrons while they are using the library. The library staff members are also on hand to assist with the library's services, materials, and during library programs and activities. However, the library is not licensed nor designed for providing childcare or supervision to children. Parents and caregivers are responsible for their children's safety as well as their behavior regardless if the parent or caregiver is with their children in the library.

All library patrons are expected to abide by the Patron Behavior Policy and exhibit behavior that does not disturb or interfere with the normal operations of the library patrons and staff. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are also responsible for and encouraged to instruct their children on suitable behavior while in the library as well as the rules and guidelines listed in these policies to promote an understanding of how to use the library and its services.

Children (age 10 or older) may use the library unattended by a parent or caregiver.

Children (age 9 and under) must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a parent or caregiver (age 14 or older) at all times while they are in the library, with the exception of library programming designed and suitable for attendance by children without parental supervision.

If it is determined a child is unattended/unsupervised while utilizing the library *or* if a child is left unattended at the library's closing time, attempts will be made to contact a parent, guardian, or caregiver. If they cannot be reached within 15 minutes, the Police Department will be contacted to take custody of the child. If the parent, guardian, or caregiver has been reached but is unable to pick up or make arrangements for their child within 30 minutes, library staff will contact the Police Department.

Library patrons who are not in compliance with the Unattended Children Policy will be given a warning by library staff. Failure to comply with the rules of this policy may result in the patron's removal from library premises and/or suspension of library privileges.