

WILLIAM F. LAMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
CHILD SAFETY POLICY

IV.1
BD

The William F. Laman Public Library System welcomes library use by children. The Library is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for families and children. To make the Library an enjoyable place, and to encourage a love of books, reading, and learning, the library offers designated children's areas, programs, and services for children and designated areas, programs, and services for teens and young adults. We hope you will help your children make effective use of the Library and assist them in selecting books and materials, using computers and equipment, or attending programs and events. Together, we can provide a fun and positive experience when visiting the William F. Laman Public Library System.

ACCESS TO CHILDREN'S AREAS

The Children's area of the Library is specifically designed to serve the needs of young library users. Adults in that area not using Children's materials or not using the area for the purpose intended will be asked to use other areas of the Library. Staff members will place the safety of children first. Adults with children in their charge are the only adults allowed to use the restrooms located in the Children's areas.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Because the Library is a public place, children's safety cannot be guaranteed. Children may encounter hazards such as stairs, elevators, doors, furniture, electrical equipment, or other Library users. The conduct, safety, and supervision of children while on Library premises are the responsibility of parents, guardians, and caregivers. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and caregivers to determine the supervision needs of their children and to provide accordingly. While our staff values the safety of children, only parents, guardians, and caregivers can provide appropriate supervision of children. Appropriate supervision provided by parents, guardians, and caregivers will assist Library staff in creating a pleasant and safe environment for Library customers of all ages.

In order to ensure a positive Library experience for everyone, if a child appears not to be sufficiently capable or mature to be on Library premises without supervision, staff will make a concerted effort to locate the child's parent, guardian, or caregiver in the Library and express the Library's concern for the child's safety, and explain the Library's Child Safety Policy. If staff is unable to locate the parent, guardian, or caregiver in the Library, staff will make a concerted effort to contact the parent, guardian or caregiver to pick up the child. Staff will express the Library's concern for the child's safety and explain the Library's Child Safety Policy. If the parent, guardian, or caregiver cannot be located within a reasonable time, staff will call the North Little Rock Police Department. The North Little Rock Police Department will then assume responsibility for the child.

Adopted: 6.5.17
Revised: 10.5.18
Approved: CG

WILLIAM F. LAMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
CHILD SAFETY POLICY

IV.1
BD
STAFF ROLE

Staff members are available to assist children with library materials and services. The library is a public building with staff trained to provide public library services; however, the library is not equipped to, nor is its role to provide, long or short-term child care. No patron should have the expectation of using library facilities or staff as an alternative to child care or supervision.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN

For safety and security purposes, as well as the comfort of all library patrons, a responsible adult or caregiver at least sixteen (16) years of age or older must accompany any child who appears not to be sufficiently capable or mature to be on library premises without supervision. Parents or caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of the child they accompany, and for ensuring that the child follows established library policies and procedures.

In situations including, but not limited to, the following:

1. An unattended child is found frightened or crying;
2. An unattended child is perceived to be endangering themselves;
3. Another person in the library poses a perceived threat to an unattended child;
4. An unattended child exhibits inappropriate behavior;
5. An unattended child has not been met by a parent or caregiver at the time the library closes or in emergency situations,

library staff will evaluate the situation and attempt to locate the parent, guardian, or caregiver of the unattended child. In the event the parent, guardian, or caregiver cannot be located the unattended child will be placed in the care of the North Little Rock Police Department.

This policy will be used in conjunction with the established Patron Behavior & Code of Conduct, Behavior Policy Non-Compliance, and Security Incident Policy. A written incident report will be generated by library staff when any action is taken concerning an unattended or disruptive child on library premises.