

Unattended Children

The Patrick Heath Public Library encourages visits to the library by children and strives to provide a welcoming place for them and their families. To provide for the general well-being and safety of children visiting the library, the library has adopted the following guidelines.

Parents/guardians (even while absent) are responsible for the care, supervision, safety, and behavior of their children while on Library Premises¹. Unattended children 11 (eleven) years of age and older are expected to adhere to the rules of library use and understand their role and responsibility in maintaining a pleasant library environment.

A responsible parent, guardian, teacher or assigned caregiver who is at least 16 (sixteen) years of age must always remain on Library Premises² with children 10 (ten) years of age and under, although children 8 years of age and older may attend scheduled library programs without a responsible person on Library Premises. In these cases, parents/guardians should be aware of program end times to allow for prompt pick-up.

A responsible person must remain in the direct "line of sight" of children 5 (five) years of age and under at all times.

Library staff will not transport children to another location under any circumstance. Children must arrange transportation a minimum of 20 minutes prior to closing. If any child, 15 (fifteen) years of age and under, is not provided transportation at the time of closing, two staff members will remain onsite until each child is picked up by a parent or guardian. If any child is left on Library Premises for longer than 20 minutes after closing, library staff will contact the Boerne Police Department and remain with the child until the police arrive. If the lack of prompt pick-up is a chronic (3 (three) times in a school semester) problem, the City of Boerne may choose to charge parent/guardian with the cost of overtime for staff remaining onsite for pick-up and/or may report the parent/guardian to Child Protective Services.

The library is a public building open to everyone and is not a restricted, secured, or protected area. The library, its director and staff are not responsible for the care, supervision, safety, or behavior of children on Library Premises. The City of Boerne is not liable for any consequences of parents/guardians forfeiting their responsibility for children while on Library Premises.

Last review or revision: June 9, 2022

Initially adopted: September 8, 2003 (as Unattended Children and Disruptive Behavior)

¹ Library Premises encompass the interior space of the Library building plus the surrounding facilities and grounds.