

### 3.09 UNATTENDED CHILDREN/DISRUPTIVE YOUTH POLICY

The staff of Asotin County Library welcomes patrons/customers of all ages to visit/use the library and its resources. We are concerned about the safety of all library users, especially children. The library is not equipped, nor is it the library's role to provide long-term or short-term daycare for children of any age. Library staff cannot supervise children or act as substitute babysitters. The Board of Trustees has therefore established the following policies for the Library.

- Children ages 7 and younger may not be left unattended in the library. Parents/responsible persons (age 14 or older) are accountable for their children's behavior in the library.
- If a child is unattended, a member of the staff will walk with him/her around the library to locate the responsible person/parent. The policy on unattended children will be explained at that time and a copy will be given to the parent/responsible person.
- If a child is unattended and staff members cannot find the responsible person, these procedures will be followed by the library staff:

Telephone call to the parent/legal guardian - If successful, the staff member will insist that the parent/guardian picks up the child immediately and the written policy will be given to him/her, along with a one-time verbal warning. If the child is left unattended a second time, the police will be called immediately.

If a parent/responsible person cannot be reached, the library staff will call the police to come pick up the child/children.

If a child is left at the library after closing, a staff member will wait with them for a parent or guardian to pick them up. If no one has picked them up by 15 minutes after closing, the staff member will contact the police.

Unacceptable behaviors such as running, jumping on furniture, throwing furniture/library property, loud voices, defacing library property or any other behavior that infringes on the rights of other library users are not permitted. The following procedures will be followed if unacceptable behaviors occur within the library premises:

- Verbal warning that behavior is unacceptable.
- If the disruptive behavior persists, library staff will request that the youth leave the library premises. Staff will attempt to contact the parent or

legal guardian to explain the policy and to notify them that the youth has been asked to leave the library.

Adopted August 16, 2000 by the Asotin County Library Board of Trustees. Revised November 18, 2013.