

Sanger Public Library

Policy for Unattended Children

Sanger Public Library welcomes children to use the library and encourages parents to bring them. Responsibility for the welfare and behavior of children rests with the parent or guardian. While library staff members will make every effort to respond with care and concern, they cannot, nor is it their responsibility to, serve as child care providers. *Children ages eight (8) years and younger must be accompanied by a responsible adult or family member in the library.*

Unattended Children During Library Hours:

A child five (5) to eight (8) years old may attend a special children's program while a parent or guardian waits in another part of the library. The parent or guardian must rejoin the child immediately after the program's conclusion, or sooner if there is a problem that needs to be addressed.

If library staff is unable to locate the responsible adult or family member after a reasonable time, the staff member will call the police department.

Children are required to abide by the library's behavior guidelines. Children ages 9 years and older acting in a manner not in compliance with the Library's rules of conduct will be asked to correct their behavior and warned that if they continue to behave in a disruptive manner, they may be asked to leave.

If a child under the age of twelve (12) is asked to leave the library and cannot or will not leave, the parent or guardian will be contacted by phone and notified that the child must leave the library. If the child is not collected by the parent or guardian within a reasonable time, or if the parent or guardian cannot be reached by phone, the Sanger Police Department will be called.

Children Left Unattended at Closing Time:

Library staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of an unattended child fourteen (14) years old or younger. If two staff members are able to stay for a reasonable time after closing, they may wait for a responsible person to arrive. Depending on their ability to stay, they may wait between 15-30 minutes before contacting the police department. Staff members will leave once the police have arrived and made contact with the child.

The police will take the children home if there is a responsible adult present or take the child to the police department or an officially designated safe place until a parent or other responsible adult can get the child.

If a child under the age of thirteen (13) is repeatedly left unattended at closing time, law enforcement or Child Protective Services may be notified.

(Approved by Sanger Library Advisory Board with revisions on 11/12/19 and additional statement from city's attorney. – A. Tolle)