

Library

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TAB: Patron Services

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 20-10-61

SECTION: General Patron Services

SUBJECT: UNATTENDED CHILDREN AND PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to describe the responsibilities of parents and librarians in regard to minors who are using the library. This regulation also describes the library policy on children left unattended at closing of a library facility.

Effective Date:

September 10, 2015

Reviewed:

October 4, 2017

October 27, 2021

POLICY

a. Parents are responsible for making sure that their children age 7 and under are attended and supervised at all times while using the library.

b. Pursuant to ARM 20-10-10 Hours of Service, the library establishes hours of service. The library prominently publishes those hours for the benefit of library patrons.

Library employees are employed to provide library service during library hours of service. Library employees are not custodians, babysitters, or caregivers for children at any time, including after the library doors are closed. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children have rides or are picked up and off of the library premises no later than the time that the library closes.

c. Parents or guardians of all children under the age of 18 are responsible for making sure that their children are prepared to leave the library when the library closes.

d. At 45 minutes after closing, a child under the age of 12 will be treated by the library employee as abandoned and as a child in need of care, and the police will be notified and requested to take charge of an abandoned child in need of care.

e. The County Librarian may establish additional rules and guidelines for the enforcement of this regulation.

October 27, 2021

ARM 20-10-61 End