

Adams Memorial Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services. However, the care, safety and behavior of children using the library is the legal and practical responsibility of the parent, guardian or a caregiver, not library staff. If your child is unable to leave the library unaccompanied, he/she should not be left in the library unaccompanied. "Accompanied" is defined as "within sight" for the purposes of this document.

- The library is not responsible for the safety or well-being of any patron beyond the extent reasonably expected of a public facility.
- The library staff does not provide care or supervision of children in the library except to the extent needed to uphold the library rules of conduct and use. Parents/caregivers may not use the library and library staff as a substitute for daycare or babysitting services.
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for the appropriate behavior of their children in the library.
- Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver. If a child in this age group is found unaccompanied, library staff will attempt to locate the parent/caregiver and inform him/her of the rules. If the caregiver cannot be found, the police department will be called for assistance.
- Children age 10 or older may be in the library unaccompanied for a reasonable period of time if checking out books, doing research or homework, or are otherwise legitimately engaged in library activities. However, library-appropriate behavior is expected, and parents/caregivers are still responsible for the actions of the child.
- The library staff is not responsible for any child who is left unaccompanied.
- The library staff is not responsible for preventing children from leaving the library or its grounds.
- Patrons with mental, physical, or emotional needs which render supervision necessary must be accompanied by a suitable caregiver at all times, regardless of age.
- Children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other patrons and are subject to the same consequences, including being asked to leave the library.
- The library is not responsible for supervision of unaccompanied children prior to opening or after closing. Parents/caregivers should be aware of the library's posted hours and make suitable arrangements. When the safety of an unaccompanied child is in doubt, or if the library is closing and a parent, guardian or other caregiver cannot be located, library staff is authorized to call the police department and two members of the staff will stay with the child until the police arrive.
- Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of library privileges.
- The library management will have the final determination if a child may use the library unaccompanied.

Approved March 30, 2016

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If your child is not old enough to leave the library unaccompanied, he/she should not be left in the library unaccompanied.