

Prairie City Public Library Safe Child Policy

The library is a public building and all patrons, including minors, are welcome. However, at no time will the library assume the responsibility of surrogate care provider for children in the library. All children under the age of 6 years of age must have a parent or caregiver present in the immediate vicinity at all times. A caregiver is defined as someone 13 years of age or older who has the mental and physical capacity to care for the child should an emergency arise. If a child under the age of 6 is left at the library and a parent, guardian or caregiver cannot be located within an hour, we will contact law enforcement and the child will be given into their custody.

Children ages 6-12 may be left alone for a period of time deemed necessary to select books, complete a homework assignment, read, use the computers or attend a library program at the discretion of a responsible adult. If the adult feels it is unsafe for the child to leave the building without adult supervision, the child should not be in the Library unattended.

Young people ages 13 through 17 are treated as adult patrons, but are still the legal responsibility of their parent/caregiver and should have emergency contact information.

Parents should be aware of the Library's opening and closing times and make arrangements for the child to be picked up at the appropriate time. Library staff are not responsible for children not picked by closing time.

Children will be expected to display appropriate behavior in the library or on the premises. If proper behavior is not maintained, the child may be asked to leave the library.

Parents and caregivers, not library staff, are responsible for the actions and safety of children visiting the library.

**Adopted by the Prairie City Public Library Board of Trustees March 2015
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