

Emporia Public Library

Unattended Child Policy

Approved by the Library Board May 13, 2021

Emporia Public Library welcomes children and their families to use its facility and services. However, the responsibility for supervising minor children's behavior and assuring their safety while at the library, which is a public building, rests solely with the parents, guardians or assigned chaperones of those children at all times, not with library personnel.

The Emporia Public Library is not responsible or liable for any minors left unattended on library premises.

1. Children ten years of age and older may use the library unattended, subject to the rules and regulations of the Emporia Public Library.
2. All children under ten years of age, and children of any age having special needs related to physical or mental ability requiring special accommodations, shall be attended and adequately supervised at all times by a parent, legal guardian, or an individual fourteen years of age or older (hereinafter "chaperone") who is authorized by the parent or guardian to be responsible for the care of children using the library or attending scheduled library programs. The person in charge of such children must be on the library premises at all times.
3. In the event that any child described in Section 1 above appears to be left unattended or lost, or any other minor child appears to be lost, two library staff members will stay with the child at all times while other staff members attempt to locate the child's parent, guardian or chaperone on the library premises. If the parent, guardian or chaperone is not located on the library premises within a reasonable period of time, as determined at the sole discretion of the Executive Director or the designated Librarian in-charge, the library staff shall contact the Police Department for assistance. Under no circumstances shall library staff take an unattended child out of the library building or provide or arrange transportation for the child.

Parents, guardians and chaperones who leave their child unattended and unsupervised at the library, in violation of Section 1 above, may have their library privileges suspended temporarily or permanently, at the sole discretion of the Executive Director.