

## **Safe Child Policy (Unattended Children)**

### **Unattended Children in the Library**

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children while they are in the Library, on Library grounds, or participating in Library activities. The Henderson County Public Library District staff is committed to help children with activities related to the Library. However, Library staff cannot, nor is it their responsibility to, serve as baby-sitters, teachers, or disciplinarians. The library also cannot and does not assume responsibility for unattended children. Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of library privileges. Whenever advisable, the Library will notify the parent of incidents involving an unattended child.

HCPLD will not restrict access to library materials or services to anyone solely on the basis of age. Supervising the use of the library by children is the responsibility of parents or legal guardians, not library staff.

- Children age 13-17 may use the Library unattended by an adult, subject to other Library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor.
- Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver (caregivers must be 16 or older).
- Children age 9-12 may be in the library unaccompanied by a parent or other responsible caregiver if said children are directly taking part in a library sponsored program or event. Parent or responsible caregiver must take over supervision immediately following the conclusion of the program or event.

When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or the parent or responsible caregiver cannot be located, or if the Library is closing, Library staff is authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive.

### **Unattended Children After Hours**

In the event a minor is still at the library 15 minutes after the library closes to the public, the police will be called to pick up the minor. Attempts will be made during those 15 minutes to reach parents or another responsible caregiver, but in no instance will staff transport minors.