



Library Administrative Rules: Unattended Children

The staff of the Hillsboro Public Library strives to create a warm, welcoming, and enjoyable environment for children. The library offers many programs and services that encourage children to develop a love of books, reading, and learning. Sharing this environment with other people requires that everyone follow the Library Code of Conduct established by the Library Board. It is the intention of these administrative rules to enlist the cooperation of parents and other adults responsible for children to ensure that the Hillsboro Public Library provides a safe and pleasant experience for all who use it.

Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children while they are in the Library and on Library property. The Hillsboro Public Library staff is committed to helping children with activities related to the Library. Therefore, when children are using the Library, it is the responsibility of parents, rather than the library staff, to supervise their children. Parents and guardians may designate a responsible person to act as their representative for a child in the Library.

Per the Oregon Revised Statutes, children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible person at all times. This means the responsible person must supervise the child during the entire library visit by remaining within a reasonable distance and/or keeping the child within their line of sight.

When children are not adequately supervised or are engaging in behavior which is disturbing others or the operation of the library, the library staff will attempt to locate the person in charge of the children and discuss the problem. Staff have the authority to ask the children and the person in charge of the children to leave the premises. If the person in charge of the children under the age of 10 cannot be located, the children will be referred to the Hillsboro Police Department for their own safety.

Children age 10 and older may use the library on his/her own. However, during regular school hours, library staff reserve the right to report possible instances of truancy to the Hillsboro Policy Department's School Resource Officers. However, parents are still responsible for the actions and well-being of their child(ren). In accordance with Hillsboro Public Library's Code of Conduct, patrons, including children, involved in inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the library. **If a child 10 and older is not able to leave the library on his/her own then s/he should not be in the library without a parent/caregiver.** All unaccompanied children at the library should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.

Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when they are unattended. Staff may need to contact authorities such as the police either to assist with the enforcement of discipline in the library or to ensure the safety of an unattended child.

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