

## UNATTENDED AND DISRUPTIVE CHILD POLICY

The Laurel County Public Library welcomes all children to use our facility and services. However, responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or assigned chaperone. The Library is a public building in an open environment which means many people of all ages and interests make use of all the areas of the Library with little or no supervision. Library employees cannot function as caregivers or babysitters. The Library is not equipped—and it is not the Library’s role—to provide long- or short-term childcare.

The Library is mandated by statute (KRS 620.030) to report suspected neglect or abuse of children. Anytime neglect or abuse of children is suspected, the appropriate authorities will be notified.

Therefore, the following guidelines will be followed concerning the care and behavior of children.

### Children under the age of 12

Any child under the age of 12 years must have a caregiver (age 16 or older) with them in the immediate area (generally defined as being within eyesight and normal earshot) at all times. This caregiver must supervise, guide, and control the behavior of his/her charge at all times.

### Children of all ages

Patrons of all ages must adhere to the Library’s Code of Conduct. If a child age 17 or younger does not respond to the correction of staff, the parent or guardian will be notified. In the event the parent or guardian cannot be located within a reasonable period of time, staff will contact law enforcement. Examples of when this may occur can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- When the behavior of the child is disruptive or inappropriate
- When the child appears to be a danger to him/herself or others
- When the child appears to be threatened by others
- When the child appears to threaten, bully, or intimidate others
- When the child appears to be ill or upset

### Children left at closing

When a child age 17 or younger is unattended at the time of the Library’s closing, the staff will make reasonable attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or caregiver. If staff members are unable to contact the parent, guardian, or caregiver, law enforcement will be called to take custody of the child. Staff will remain with the child until law enforcement takes custody.

### Violations

Incident reports will be written for any disruptive behavior from a child. Repeated incidents involving a particular child may result in loss of library privileges for both child and caregiver.