

Unattended Children

The Patrick Heath Public Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services; however, the Library is a public building open to everyone and is not a restricted, secured, or protected area. The library, its Director and staff are not responsible for the care, supervision, safety or behavior of children on the Library Premises. The City of Boerne is not liable for any consequences of parents/guardians forfeiting their responsibility for children while on Library Premises.

Parents/guardians (even while absent) are responsible for the care, supervision, safety and behavior of their children while on Library Premises. Children 11 years of age and older are required to sign a behavior pledge at the beginning of each school year acknowledging their understanding of rules of library use and their role and responsibility in maintaining a pleasant library environment.

A responsible parent, guardian, teacher or assigned caregiver who is at least 16 years of age must remain on the Library Premises with children 10 and under at all times, although children 8 years of age and older may attend scheduled library programs without a responsible person on Library Premises. In these cases, parents/guardians should be aware of program end times to allow for prompt pick-up.

A responsible person must remain in the direct "line of sight" of children 4 and under at all times.

Library staff will not transport children to another location under any circumstance. Children must make arrangements for transportation a minimum of 20 minutes prior to closing. If any child, age 14 and under, is not provided transportation at the time of closing, two staff members will remain onsite until each child is picked up by a parent or guardian. If any child is left on Library Premises for longer than 20 minutes after closing, library staff will contact the Boerne Police Department. If the lack of prompt pick-up is a chronic (three times in a school semester) problem, the City of Boerne may choose to charge parent or guardian with the cost of overtime for staff remaining onsite for pick-up and/or may report the parent or guardian to Child Protective Services.

Last revision: July 14, 2016

Initially adopted: September 8, 2003 (as Unattended Children and Disruptive Behavior)



TEEN PLEDGE
LIBRARY USE AND BEHAVIOR
2016-2017 School Year

I understand the rules regarding library use and disruptive behavior and agree to abide by those rules. I have been offered the opportunity to review disruptive behavior and unattended children policies and have received a brochure regarding this information to take home to my parent or guardian.

I understand that if my behavior is disruptive, my parent or guardian will be called to arrange for transportation. If my parent or guardian cannot be reached, it is library policy to contact the police for them to make arrangements for my well-being. Chronic disruptive or zero tolerance behavior could lead to the denial of library privileges.

I am at least 11 years old and able to stay at the library without parent or guardian supervision, but understand that this is a privilege, not a right, and it can be denied if my behavior is disturbing other patrons. (Parents are encouraged to call the library at 830-249-3053 for more information or to request a copy of library policy regarding unattended children in the library).

I understand that the library has a **ZERO Tolerance policy** for behavior that is deemed to be threatening, illegal, dangerous and/or harmful to patrons or staff.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____