

Vestavia Hills Public Library Unattended Children Policy

The Library welcomes youth to use its facilities and services. Responsibility for the behavior and well-being of children using the library rests with the parent (or guardian or caregiver assigned by the parent) and **not** with the Library's personnel. Library staff members cannot supervise children in the Library.

Youth (Eight and Younger)

The safety of all children left alone in the Library is a serious concern.

Children under the age of eight years may not be left unattended by an adult or caregiver (age 18 or over) in ANY part of the Library. If children under the age of eight are found without an adult or caregiver, staff will attempt to locate the parent or other caregiver. If they cannot be located in the building or at home within 15 minutes, the police department (non-emergency number) will be contacted to pick up the child.

Youth (Eight and Older) at Closing:

When visiting the Library without an adult, children eight and older should have definite arrangements to be picked up by closing time. If children are left unattended at closing, staff will first call the parents or caregiver and then the police for pickup after closing if the parents/caregivers cannot be located. Under no circumstances is a staff member ever to drive any patron home, adult or child.

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, NOT LIBRARY STAFF, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN VISITING THE LIBRARY.