

POLICY ON UNATTENDED MINORS AND DEPENDENT ADULTS

Policy Statement

Library facilities are public buildings, and as such, have special security concerns. The Lewis & Clark Library is committed to providing its users an atmosphere and environment conducive to the most efficient and effective use of library facilities and programming. Part of this commitment is a concern for the safety and welfare of everyone who visits our libraries. This policy addresses unattended minors under the age of eighteen (18) (MCA 41-1-101); and unattended dependent adults. Dependent includes, for example, adults dependent for their safety and well-being on others.

An unattended minor or dependent adult includes any person who is unaccompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult caregiver and is unable or unwilling to care for themselves. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of minors and dependent adults in the Library always rests with the parent, legal guardian or responsible adult caregiver and not with library personnel. The Library reserves the right to determine when a minor or dependent adult must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or responsible adult caregiver.

The Lewis & Clark Library occasionally provides programs which are designed and suitable for attendance by minors without parental supervision. Prior announcement of such programs will be made.

Unattended Persons after Hours

Parents, legal guardians, and responsible adult caregivers are responsible for being aware of the times the Library opens and closes.

- In the event an unattended minor or a dependent adult remains in the Library after the Library closes to the public, staff will call the Police Department. Staff will also make reasonable attempts to reach parents, legal guardians, or responsible adult caregivers by telephone. Library staff will remain with the minor or dependent adult until the police arrive.
- Under no circumstances will library staff members provide transportation to unattended minors or unattended dependent adult; nor will staff leave them alone in the building or on the library premises.

Approved by the Board of Trustees September 21, 1999

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Reviewed, amended and approved by the County Attorney May 3, 2012

Reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees May 15, 2012