**Unattended Child & Dependent Adult Policy**

(Approved April 2025)

The Redfield Public Library strives to maintain a safe environment conducive to the welfare of all library patrons. The library staff isn’t trained and can’t be expected to provide care and supervision for unattended children or other persons of any age who are in need of constant attention.

\*An unattended child is defined as a minor under the age 8 years who are required to be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. For the purpose of this policy, a responsible caregiver shall be defined as a person(s) 12 years or older. A dependent adult is a person over the age of 18 who is unable to care for themselves. The exception to this is when children aged 6 -8 may be unaccompanied and participate in a children’s event or summer program with a parent/guardian signed approval.

\*Monitoring the activities and regulating the behavior of children or dependent adults is the responsibility of the parent/guardian or caregiver aged 12 or older.

\*Parents/caregivers are responsible for the behavior, safety, and supervision of children or dependent adults at all times in the library and at library events. Youth aged 8 and under must have a parent/guardian or caregiver aged 12 or older on the premises with them at all times.

\*The library staff are not responsible for children or dependent adults interacting with or leaving the library with persons who aren’t their caregivers.

\*When children or persons requiring supervision are unattended, staff will make an effort to locate the responsible parent/guardian or caregiver. If necessary, appropriate law enforcement or child protective authorities will be notified to assume responsibility for the welfare of the child or person in need of attention.

\*Parents/guardians or caregivers who repeatedly leave a child or dependent adult unattended will be reported to the police.

\*Library staff members are not responsible for the safety, care, or supervision of children of any age or dependent adults at any time in the library or at library-sponsored events.

**Parent/guardian and/or caregiver responsibility:**

Parents and caregivers should encourage children and dependent adults to engage in appropriate behaviors while at the library.

\*Parents and/or caregivers should remain with the child or dependent adult and be responsible for their care when at the library. Exception: See paragraph #2.

\*Children visiting the library from a preschool or childcare setting must have caregiver supervision at all times to ensure their safety and monitor their behavior.

\*Parents and/or caregivers must assume responsibility for deciding what compel/internet usage and library resources are appropriate for their child or dependent adult. The is not the responsibility of the library staff to monitor internet usage or decide what library resources are appropriate for their child or dependent adult. Parents and/or caregivers should address those concerns with their child or dependent adult and let them know what materials they don’t wish them to use.

**Consequences:**

Failure to comply with the patron behavior policy will result in the following consequences:

\*The first infraction will result in a warning.

\*With the second infraction, the patron will be asked to leave the library for that day.

\*A third infraction, involving a child, will result in the parent/guardian being notified.

A  third infraction, involving an adult, will result in the appropriate law enforcement being notified.

\*Any illegal activity, harassment, or abuse will be reported to the police.

\*In extreme cases, where a patron is disruptive every time they visit the library or engage in unlawful activities, the events will be documented and the patron may have some or all of the library privileges revoked and/or may be banned from the library. This will be done at the discretion of the library director.

**Staff Guidelines:**

\*Library staff will attempt to contact a parent/guardian or caregiver if there are issues of concern with the unattended child or dependent adult.

\*Once the parent/guardian or caregiver had been contacted, they must pick up the the unattended child or dependent adult immediately or make arrangements for them to be picked up. If the parent/guardian or caregiver cannot be reached or the unattended child or dependent adult can’t be picked up within 30 minutes of the notification, then the library staff will contact the police.

\*Library staff are not to transport unattended children or dependent adults.

\*If an unattended child or dependent adult is still at the library upon its closing, the library staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian or caregiver. If after 15 minutes the staff is unable to make contact with the parent/guardian or caregiver, law enforcement will be notified and staff will stay with the child or dependent adult until law enforcement arrives.

\*The library and its staff doesn’t assume any responsibility for an unattended child or dependent adult left unattended at the library or on library premises.