

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The Belle Fourche Public Library is not the guarantor of the safety of the children who use our facilities. Our facility is open to the public, a situation which can present risks to children. The safety and security of the children are the responsibility of the parents or adult caregiver. The Belle Fourche Public Library does not and cannot act as a babysitter of children.

- **A child under the age of 12 years should be under the supervision of a person who assumes responsibility for him or her.**
- **If a child wishes to leave the library, the library staff cannot legally detain him or her.**
- **Parents or adult caregivers should monitor all activities and behavior of their children while they are in the library.**
- **If a minor, anyone under the age of 18, is left at the library at closing time or in the event of an emergency situation, staff will attempt to contact the parents or adult caregivers. If the parents or adult caregivers cannot be contacted, staff will immediately notify the police.**
- **In the event an emergency forces the immediate closing of the library, children should know what procedure to follow as determined by their parents or adult caregivers.**
- **The library staff is not permitted to give any child a ride home.**
- **Disruptive behavior is not acceptable, and caregivers may be asked to remove their children from the library. If necessary, the authorities will be called.**
- **For the purposes of this policy, a caregiver must be at least 14 years old.**

Approved by the Belle Fourche Public Library Board of Trustees July 9, 2025