

## POLICY FOR UNATTENDED CHILDREN

Serving children is an important part of the Amarillo Public Library. Children and their families are encouraged to take full advantage of the opportunities we provide for reading, learning, and growing. The safety and well being of all ages and the maintenance of an atmosphere conducive to library use are major concerns. Therefore, the following policies have been adopted:

1. Children in the Library are the responsibility of their parents/guardians at all times. Library staff cannot take legal responsibility for the care of an unattended child. It is mandatory that children age 12 or younger be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible person (parent, caregiver, or mature adolescent, age 14 years or older).
2. Children over the age of 12 years may use the Library unattended provided they are able to maintain proper library behavior. The Amarillo Public Library reserves the right to limit the use of the Library by children and adults who are infringing upon the rights of others by inappropriate behavior. If an unattended child behaves in a disruptive manner, the child will be asked to correct the behavior. If the behavior persists, Library staff may, at their discretion, contact the parents, or ask the child to leave the Library. Failure to comply may result in the police being called.

Examples of inappropriate behavior are:

- Eating/drinking in undesignated areas
- Vandalism
- Abusive language
- Disturbing other patrons
- Loud talking
- Fighting
- Rowdiness
- Failure to comply with the Library's acceptable computer use policy

3. Parents and caregivers must be aware of the Library's opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their children. If a child is unaccompanied in the Library at closing time, every effort will be made to assist the child in calling his/her parents or caregivers. If, at closing time, the child has been abandoned or if a child's ride home has not arrived, the Library staff will not leave the child unattended outside the building. If the caregiver cannot be reached or if the promised ride is more than a few minutes late (no more than 30 minutes) the police will be notified.

**VIOLATIONS OF THESE POLICIES ARE GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OF LIBRARY PRIVILEGES.**

### HOURS OPEN:

<b>Monday – Thursday</b>	<b>9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday – Saturday</b>	<b>9 a.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>