

**PIONEERLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD POLICY**

Policy: Unattended Children	Policy number:
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Purpose: Pioneerland’s libraries are busy public facilities and therefore the library staff is unable to assume responsibility for babysitting, supervising or entertaining children left alone in the library. Responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests with their parent, guardian or caregiver and **not** with library staff.

Policy: While in the library, children seven (7) years of age and younger must be supervised by a parent, guardian, or caregiver who is at least twelve (12) years old and is able to attend to the child’s safety and insure appropriate behavior. If they notify library staff, the parent, guardian or caregiver can leave the library for the length of the time that the child (ages 4-7) is attending a formal library program. Children aged 3 or younger **must** be supervised by their parent, guardian or caregiver at all times while in the library.

Procedures:

- 1) It is recommended that children have telephone number(s) of persons who can assist them in case they have to leave for library closings or for rule violations. This is seen as even more important at times of inclement weather and after dark.
- 2) If a child of seven years-of-age or younger is left unattended in the library, except while they are attending a library program, Pioneerland staff may contact the police to pick-up the child.
- 3) If children ages 8-11 are left unattended at the time of the library closing, Pioneerland staff may contact the police to pick-up the child.
- 4) Patrons, ages 12 or older, who violate library rules and guidelines may be asked to leave the library at any time.