

Universal City Public Library Unattended Children Policy

The Universal City Public Library welcomes and encourages families and youth to use the library facilities and services. It is the intention of this Policy to enlist the cooperation of parents and other adults responsible for children to ensure that the Universal City Public Library is a safe and pleasant experience for all. The responsibility for the behavior and safety of children using the library rests with the parent, guardian or a responsible caregiver assigned by the parent.

The safety and comfort of all persons entering the Universal City Public Library as a visitor or as library support staff is paramount. The Library is a public place and, to the extent provided under Texas and Federal law, the City of Universal City does not assume any responsibility, does not guarantee the safety of children left unattended in the Library, and does not waive any immunities provided to the City.

Definitions

1. Unsupervised child means a very young child, under the age of 10 that is not accompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible adult.
2. Unaccompanied child means a child over the age of 10 that is not accompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible adult and is unable to contact or does not have access to a parent, guardian, and/or responsible adult.
3. Unattended child means both an unsupervised and unaccompanied child while using the Universal City Public Library.

Guidelines:

1. Unsupervised or unaccompanied children may not be left alone in the library and must have adequate supervision while in the library. Library staff are not responsible if unattended children leave the library property.
2. The library strives to ensure the safety of all patrons, including unattended children, however, the responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests solely with the parent/caregiver.
3. Library employees are not responsible for unattended children. Children are expected to adhere to the library's Patron Code of Conduct policy and to respect library property.

Patron Responsibilities

1. To ensure the enjoyment of all that use the Universal City Public Library, anyone violating the Patron Code of Conduct Policy will be asked to discontinue the disruptive behavior or activity and given a warning about continued conduct in

violation of the Policy. If the unattended child does not stop the behavior or activity, the staff will request that the parent or caregiver intervene.

2. After one warning, if the behavior or activity continues regardless of parental assistance, the child and responsible adult will be asked to leave the library until the child's behavior is under control.
3. Parents must ensure that any unattended child knows how to reach them and provide an emergency contact number.
4. Parents will be held accountable for the behavior of their children on the library premises, whether or not the parent is present.

Staff Responsibilities:

1. Library staff is trained to help children with library materials and services. While Library staff strive to provide a safe and appropriate environment for the well-being and safety of children while in the library, the library is not designed or licensed to provide basic childcare needs.
2. Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, or responsible adult in the following circumstances:
 - a. A child left unattended is engaging in behavior that is disruptive to the normal operations of library business, users, or staff.
 - b. A child left unattended is involved in a situation that is potentially harmful to the health and safety of the child and/or other patrons or staff.
 - c. A child left unattended is alone at the library at closing time.

The situations listed above will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If a parent, guardian, or responsible adult can't be reached, or are unresponsive, the library will contact the Universal City Police Department for assistance.