



## Clinton Community Library UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

The Clinton Community Library is dedicated to providing its services and resources to patrons of all ages. We encourage children and families to use the library and, while doing so, also emphasize parents' responsibility for the safety and well-being of their children.

Children, like all library patrons, are expected to behave appropriately and in adherence with the library's Patron Code of Conduct. The supervision of child patrons lies with their parents/caregivers, not library staff, and the library is not responsible for any consequences of caregivers forfeiting their responsibility for their children.

Children up to age 10 may not use the library unaccompanied by a parent/caregiver. The assigned caregiver must be at least 13 years old and must carry emergency contact information for the child and themselves.

Children ages 10 through 12 may use the library unattended by an adult caregiver. If, however, they are found in violation of the Patron Code of Conduct, or exhibit other inappropriate behavior, and are asked to leave the premises, children in this age group must do so accompanied by their parent or caregiver. Children in this age group who are unable to leave the library in the company of an adult should not be in the library and may have their access restricted in the future.

Young people ages 13 through 17, while still legally the responsibility of their parents, are treated as adult users and may use the premises unaccompanied by a parent or caregiver.

All children under the age of 18 and/or their caregivers must carry emergency contact information on their person when using the library.

Children Unattended At Closing Time

Parents/caregivers whose children use the library are expected to know library hours of operation. Parents/caregivers should also remember that the library may unexpectedly close due to inclement weather, systems loss (heat, electricity, etc.) or other reasons out of the control of library staff. Library staff may not accompany children outside the library or give them a ride home. Should there be children left unattended in the library at closing, library personnel will proceed as follows:

1. Have the child make contact with their parent/guardian for a ride home.
2. If no ride arrives after fifteen minutes, staff will contact the Sheriff's Department and wait with the child for their arrival.
3. Written record will be made of the child's address, phone number and parent's contact information.
4. Parents, once located, will be given a copy of the Safe Child Policy

Library personnel are at liberty to enforce this policy as they see fit.

Violation of the Safe Child Policy may result in restriction or suspension of library privileges for the family.

Approved by The Clinton Community Library Board of Trustees on 10 August, 2009.

