

LVDL POLICY MANUAL

Section II: Service Policies

TITLE: Unattended Children Policy

DATE ADOPTED: April 9, 2007

The Lake Villa District Library staff is committed to helping children with activities related to the library. Staff cannot assume responsibility for the care, supervision, teaching or entertainment of children using the library except in the confines of library programs. Parents are responsible for the needs and behavior of their children who are in the library.

Parents should realize that the public library is a very public place. There are no legal restrictions on who can use the library. It is thus no more safe for young children than a department store might be.

Children younger than ten (10) years old must be chaperoned at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver of high school age or older. When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or the parent or responsible caregiver cannot be located, library staff members are authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive.

Children younger than seven (7) years old must be directly and closely supervised by a parent or other responsible caregiver of high school age or older. The Lake Villa District Library does provide programs that are suitable for attendance by children over the age of six (6) and less than the age of ten (10) that do not require direct parental supervision. During such programs the parent or responsible caregiver is expected to be present in the library building.

Children age ten (10) or older may use the library unattended by an adult, subject to other library rules and policies concerning behavior and conduct.

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Unattended Children Parental Notification Letter

Dear _____,

The Lake Villa District Library has recently experienced an incident involving your child, _____, where he/she was either in the building or on library grounds unattended by you or a responsible caregiver.

A copy of the library's policy on Unattended Children is enclosed. We ask that you review this policy and follow it.

The library is a very public place that cannot restrict the adults who use the library. It is therefore no more safe for children than a department store might be.

The safety of children is extremely important to us. We do not want to suspend library privileges for either you or your family but are authorized to do so when children's safety becomes an issue.

If you have any questions regarding this policy or its enforcement, please contact me.

Sincerely,

(Library Director)

Unattended Children After Hours

In the event that a minor is still in the library 15 minutes after the library closes to the public, the police will be notified about the young person. Attempts will be made during that 15 minutes to reach parents, but in no instance will staff take young people home.