

PHOEBE APPERSON HEARST LIBRARY  
LEAD, SOUTH DAKOTA



BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

**PURPOSE**

The Hearst Library Staff and Board of Library Trustees intend that the library facility be a safe and inviting place for the entire Community to use. The Library Staff welcomes children, encourages them to develop a love of books and reading and are available to assist children with library materials and services. However, the library is not equipped nor is it the role of the staff to monitor or discipline children's behavior or provide child care.

**SOURCE**

Hearst Library Board of Trustees and Hearst Library Director

**POLICY**

For the safety and comfort of all patrons, a responsible adult or caregiver should accompany small children while they are using the library and will not leave children under the age of 8 unattended. Library Staff are not responsible for the behavior, safety, or supervision of children of any age at any time while in the library


\*\* An **attended** child is herein defined as a child under the age of 8 accompanied by a parent, guardian or temporary guardian such as a babysitter or sibling 14 years of age or older

CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE SAME RULES AS STATED FOR ALL PATRONS IN THE CUSTOMER CONDUCT POLICY WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS:

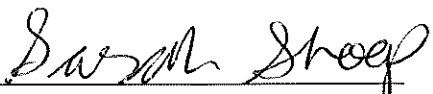
**PROCEDURE**

1. Children age 8 and older may be left in the library unattended at the discretion of their parent/guardian
2. Children over the age of 8 left unattended should know how to reach a parent or guardian should the need arise and parents should be aware of the time that the library will close
3. If a problem arises with children of any age or if the library is closing and a parent/guardian cannot be located, the Lead Police Department will be contacted to accompany that child until a parent/guardian can be located
4. No less than two adult library personnel will stay with that child until a police officer, parent or guardian has arrived
5. Individual library staff members are not permitted to remain with an unattended child after the library has closed or transport unattended children from the library to any other location
6. Library Staff do not act *in loco* of parents/guardians and cannot be held responsible for a child's actions while in the library (*i.e.* purchasing snacks; interacting with other children; or checking out of materials)

Approved by:

  
Hearst Library Board of Trustees President

6-15-26  
Date

  
Hearst Library Director

Revision Date: June 15, 2026