

# LINCOLN PARISH LIBRARY

## Unattended Children Policy

It is the policy of the Library to provide a safe and appropriate environment for library users of all ages. The library is, however, a public building and staff cannot know if the children are leaving the library with parents or with strangers, or even by themselves. The library is not equipped, nor is it the library's role, to provide long term or short term care for children of any age. **Only parents and guardians have the right and responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices of their own minor children. The Library does not stand in the place of parents (*in loco parentis*) in any aspect associated with library materials and services.**

In order to better assure the safety of minor children, the following policies have been established:

- For children age 5 and under, a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver who has attained the age of 17 must be in the same area of the library as the child at all times.
- Children six through eleven years old must have a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver who has attained the age of 17 in the building at all times. No minor child under age 12 shall be left alone at the library at any time. Children between age 12 and 17 should not be left for lengthy periods of time without a parent in the building. "Minor child" is defined as any individual who has not reached the age of 17.
- All minor children must be picked up before the library closes. The staff cannot leave the library open beyond the announced closing time.
- Library patrons of all ages, who disrupt library services, disturb other library patrons or the staff, or who damage library property will be asked to leave the building. When the patron is a minor child, the parent will be asked to leave with them.

*Approved by Library Board of Control 08-19-2020; revised 10-20-2022*