

## Unattended Minors Policy

To ensure the safety of all visitors and to maintain a welcoming and secure environment, the Yancey County Public Library requires that minors (under the age of 13) be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult caregiver at all times while on library property.

### 1. No Unattended Minors

- Minors under 13 years of age are not permitted to be in the library without supervision by a responsible adult
- A responsible adult must remain with the minor \*under 13 years ) at all times, including during programs, browsing, or use of public computers.
- The library does not act in loco parentis (in place of a parent) and cannot assume responsibility for minors left unattended.

### 2. Supervision During Programs

- All programs for children and teens (under 13 years ) require the accompanying adult to remain in the library building. Drop-off is not permitted.
- If a minor arrives unaccompanied to a program or event, they will not be allowed to participate, and the adult will be contacted for pickup.

### 3. Library Closing and Emergencies

- If a minor is left unattended in the library or on library grounds at any time, including at closing, library staff will:
  - Attempt to contact a parent or guardian immediately.
  - If no responsible adult can be reached within 30 minutes, local law enforcement or child protective services will be contacted.
  - Staff will remain with the minor until appropriate authorities arrive.

### 4. Behavioral Expectations

- Minors are expected to follow all library policies while accompanied by an adult.

- If a minor's behavior becomes disruptive or unsafe, staff may request that the child and adult leave the premises. Repeated issues may result in a suspension of library privileges.

#### Policy Enforcement

YCPL reserves the right to take appropriate action, including the involvement of law enforcement or child protection authorities, in any situation where a minor is left unattended or at risk. This policy is in place to protect the safety and well-being of minors and to ensure a safe, productive environment for all patrons.