

ADAMS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

SECTION 4.700 – UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY (approved 12/11/02)

The Adams County Public Library seeks to provide a warm and welcoming as well as safe and satisfying environment for people of all ages.

The library encourages youth to use its facilities and services; however, library staff members cannot accept responsibility for the care of minor children. Responsibility for the behavior and well-being of minor children shall rest with the parent/guardian or an adult caregiver assigned by the parent.

The public library is not a childcare provider and may not be used as a substitute for childcare services. Attendance at programs scheduled by the library is not considered a childcare substitute. Library staff shall report observed incidents of substitute childcare to the Public Service Team Leader. The Public Service Team Leader or a designee shall investigate and may declare the child an unattended child.

A parent/guardian shall make developmentally appropriate arrangements for child visits to the library. These arrangements must include immediate supervision of preschoolers, provisions in case the child is excluded from the library because of behavior, or backup plans if the library closes before a scheduled pick-up. Whenever a situation develops that warrants the attention of a child's parent/guardian and that person is not present, the Public Service Team Leader or a designee may declare the child an unattended child.

Whenever library staff determine that a child is an unattended child, the staff will make reasonable efforts to contact the parent or guardian. If that contact is not successful, the staff will contact local law enforcement officers to provide protective service for the child until the parent/guardian is located. Under no circumstances shall library staff transport an unattended minor in their personal car or a library vehicle.