

# PATTERSON LIBRARY

## SAFE CHILD

**Definition of Accompanied:** Parent/Caregiver must be near enough to either see or hear children who are under the age of 10.

**Definition of Unattended:** Children who are 10 years old and older who visit the library on their own.

The Patterson Library encourages children and parents to enjoy the library and its various resources. It is our desire that the children of Patterson find their experience a friendly and welcoming one. While the library staff is concerned about their welfare and safety, the library staff is not responsible for their care and safety while on the library premises. Out of this concern, the library uses the following procedures:

1. All children under the age of 10 must be accompanied at all times by a parent /caregiver, 18 years or older, while on library premises. If a child under the age of 5 is attending a program that does not require a parent/caregiver, that person must stay in the library and return to the program area at its ending time.
2. Children who are 10 years old or older may visit the library by themselves. They are subject to the **Patron Code of Conduct** (Section 12). Children using inappropriate behavior will be informed of the rules. If the inappropriate behavior continues, the parent/caregiver will be notified and the child shall be asked to leave the library premises or lose privilege to stay alone.
3. Parents/caregivers who bring children to the library while they attend meetings on library premises must keep their children with them or have adequately supervised while in the library. (Following the procedures in #'s 1 and 2).

### **Unaccompanied child found under the age of 10**

1. When a child (under the age of 10) seems to be unaccompanied, a staff member will observe to see if a parent/caregiver is near.
2. If a parent/caregiver is not found in a timely manner police will be contacted.

### **Children/Teens Who are 15 and under who are not picked up by closing**

The Patterson Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended at the library after hours. The parent/caregiver should plan to pick up children 15 minutes before the library closes. If the child/teen is not picked up by closing the following will be enacted:

- If a child/teen is not picked up by the time the library closes two staff members will wait with the child/teen for 15 minutes outside the building. At the end of the 15 minutes, if the child/teen is not picked up, staff will call police dispatch to come and wait with or transport the child/teen. At that time the police will be in care of the child/teen. No library staff member will transport any child from the library to another location.

### **Adults in the Family Center**

For the concerned safety of children, adults not accompanied by a child may be asked to leave the Family Center.