

## **Baxter Memorial Library Child Safety Policy**

One of Baxter Memorial Library's primary goals is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for children. We encourage Library use by children and young adults.

Children under the age of eight (8) must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or caregiver (age 14 or older) at all times while at the Library. Parents or guardians are responsible for providing supervision of their children while their children are at the Library. A Library staff member may not take responsibility for any child at the Library while on duty.

Children under the age of eight (8) may not be left unattended in any part of the Library or Library grounds, including the Youth Services Area. This includes when the parent, guardian, or caregiver is using Library computers. If a child under the age of eight (8) is left unattended, a Library staff member will attempt to locate/contact a parent or guardian and, if unable to do so, will contact the police.

Parents should be aware that Library staff members do not monitor children's use of the Library, including book or movie selection and use of computers or mobile devices. Parents are encouraged to read the Library's Internet Use Policy and Internet Safety Policy.

All children must be picked up from the Library prior to closing. If a Library staff member finds that a child is left at the Library at closing, the staff member will first attempt to contact a parent or guardian and, if unable to do so, will contact the police.

Patrons who engage in conduct that interferes with another's use or enjoyment of the library, that poses a threat to themselves or others, or that violates any other policy relating to the conduct of patrons, may be asked to leave, regardless of age. Children or young adults in this situation will be given the opportunity to call for a ride and will not be turned out into inclement weather without transportation. In extreme cases, the police may be called according to emergency procedures.

Recommended by the Baxter Memorial Library Board of Trustees 11/16/2005

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