

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Purpose: It is the policy of the Columbia County Rural Library District to provide a safe and appropriate environment for library customers of all ages. The Columbia County Rural Library District operates a community library with staff trained to provide public library services, but is not equipped to provide long or short term daycare for children of any age. The County Library District staff is not responsible for supervising or tending to the needs of individual users or groups of users.

Policy:

Parents are responsible for the behavior of their minor child in the library, whether or not the parent is present. We respect the privacy of all library patrons and intervene only when a child is at risk of injury or causing a disruption.

Minor children are the responsibility of their parent or caregiver, whether or not the child is under their direct supervision. If a young person is acting as the caregiver, the parent or legal guardian is ultimately responsible for the safety and behavior of all their minor children.

Parents and legal guardians should be aware of library opening and closing times. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for making arrangements to meet and transport their minor children who have been left unattended at the library. If a child is unattended in the library at closing time, the child or the library staff will call the parent. If the parent cannot be reached by telephone or the parent or guardian has not picked up the child within ten (10) minutes after the closing time, local law enforcement will be called. Under no circumstances will minor children be left alone until the parent, legal guardian, or law enforcement arrive to pick up the child.

Under no circumstances will library staff transport or escort a child home or to any other destination or leave the library with them.

Minor children are expected to behave according to the established Patron Code of Conduct Policy. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior will result in the individual(s) being asked to leave and/or being denied access to the library for a period of time. Parents and/or law enforcement will be notified as deemed necessary by library staff. The judgment of the library staff prevails when requesting the removal of a minor child from the community library in event of behavioral difficulties.

Internet resources are available at the library. Parents and legal guardians should become familiar with Columbia County Rural Library District's current Internet Policy, Guidelines for Internet Customers, and publications such as Child Safety on the Information Highway and the Internet: A Parent's Guide. The Internet may contain inaccurate, outdated, incomplete, controversial, or offensive information. All use of computer resources is at the risk of the user. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for monitoring and restricting their children's use of this resource.

Bodily injury, mistreatment, or abandonment of a minor child that places the child at risk of bodily harm will be reported to local law enforcement.

History

Adopted October 9, 2008