

BRADLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
PUBLIC USE OF THE LIBRARY POLICY

SECTION 7: UNATTENDED CHILDREN

1. Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children while they are in the Library. The Bradley Public Library staff is committed to help children with activities related to the Library. However, Library staff cannot, nor is it their responsibility to serve as baby-sitters, teachers, or disciplinarians. If on repeated occasions, library staff members have cause to notice unattended children, the children will be identified and a letter explaining the library policy on this matter will be sent to their parents. If the problem continues after notice to parents, the staff will contact the juvenile authorities at the police department to pick up the children. Additional noncompliance will result in notification of the Department of Children and Family Services. Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of library privileges.
2. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver. When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or the parent or responsible caregiver cannot be located, Library staff is authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive.
3. From time to time, the Bradley Public Library schedules or provides programs which are designed and suitable for attendance by children without parental supervision. Such program announcements will so indicate, and if no indication is included, then supervision is required. When so indicated, if the parent or caregiver intends to be absent, they must leave word with the circulation desk as to their whereabouts and, if possible, a phone number where they or a responsible adult can be contacted.
4. Children age 8 and older may use the Library unattended by an adult, subject to other Library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor.
5. Unattended Children at Closing: In the event a young person who, if left alone outside at closing, would not be able to care for him/herself, is still at the library at closing time, two staff members will stay until the young person has safely left the premises. Attempts will be made to reach parents or guardians, but in no instance will staff take young people home. If the young person is still at the library 30 minutes after the library has closed to the public, the police will be called to pick up the young person.

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