

Clarendon County Library System
Safe Child Policy

The Library and Library Staff hopes the children who use the library facilities will perceive them as inviting and fun. However, the safety of children left alone is a serious concern. As a public space, the Library cannot provide individual supervision of minors. The most effective way for parents and caregivers to ensure their child's safety is to remain with and actively supervise them at all times while using Library facilities.

To support a safe environment for all patrons, the following guidelines apply:

- Children under the age of twelve (12) must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver aged eighteen (18) or older who remains in the Library.
- Parents or caregivers of children aged six (6) and under must remain within conversational distance of their child. Parents may not use Library computers or other services while leaving young children unattended.
- Parents and caregivers are responsible for their child's behavior at all times, whether or not the parent or caregiver is physically present.
- All Library users, regardless of age, are subject to the Library's Code of Conduct. Violations may result in the child and parent/caregiver being asked to leave the facility.
- Library staff are not permitted to disclose who is in the building or provide updates regarding a minor's whereabouts over the phone.
- Parents and caregivers are expected to check on their children in person or ensure the child has a reliable way to communicate directly with them (e.g., a cellphone).
- Library staff may not call children to the phone or send them outside on behalf of a telephoning parent or caregiver.
- Parents or caregivers are expected to pick up their child no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the Library's closing time.
- If a child is left unattended at closing time, two (2) staff members will remain with the child for up to fifteen (15) minutes. If a parent or caregiver has not arrived within that time, the Manning Police Department will be contacted.

Approved by Library Board 7/19/2021
Revised: 2/23/2026