



Farmers Branch Mankse Library – UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

Passed by the Farmers Branch City Council- May 22, 2012

PURPOSE

The Farmers Branch Manske Library is dedicated to providing a warm, welcoming, exciting, and safe environment for people of all ages. The Farmer Branch Manske Library welcomes children of all ages to use and enjoy the facilities, collections, and programs. It is for the safety of each child that the Library has adopted this Safe Child Policy.

POLICY

The safety of children left alone at the library is a serious concern of Library staff. The Library staff however, has many duties to perform in order to serve all the residents in Farmers Branch and customers of the Library. The Library staff cannot monitor the safety and behavior of children using the Library. The Library staff cannot supervise children at the Library or prevent children from interacting with or leaving the Library with persons who are not the parents, guardians or appropriate caregivers. Furthermore, the Library cannot prevent unattended children from coming and going from the Library. The responsibility, supervision and safety of children in the Library rests with the parent, guardian or caregiver and not with the Library staff.

1. Children under the ages of 10 must be supervised at all times by a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver 16 years of age or older. The Library staff will contact the parent, guardian or caregiver (when possible) of any applicable unattended child to remove the child from the Library.
2. If a child under that age of 10 is attending a Library program a parent, guardian or caregiver must be in the building and aware of the location and behavior of the child at all times.
3. Upon close of the Library, two members of the Library staff will wait 20 minutes with any unattended patron under the age of 13 for the parent, guardian or caregiver to arrive. After 20 minutes, the Library staff will contact the Farmers Branch Police Department.

Parents, guardians or caregivers are responsible for being aware of the hours of operation of the Library. Parents, guardians or caregivers must also keep in mind that the Library may close unexpectedly for reasons beyond the control of the Library staff and therefore parents, guardians or the caregivers should ensure that children know what to do should this occur. The Library staff cannot transport any children or care for children after the Library has closed for any reason.