

**Subject:                   Minors in the Library**

**Purpose:**

To provide a safe environment for patrons of all ages and to establish policy for children who are disruptive or left unattended in the libraries.

**Policy:**

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library encourages children, parents and caregivers to enjoy the library and its resources. For the safety of younger patrons, parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for the supervision and behavior of children at all times in the Library and on library property. Library staff cannot provide childcare nor be responsible for the safety of children while they are in the library. Children should not be left alone in vehicles while the caregiver is in the library.

All library patrons including children are expected to respect library property and follow the rules outlined in MFRL Policy 115: Patron Behavior.

Children Under Age 10

Children under the age of 10 must have a responsible adult in the immediate vicinity of and in visual contact with the child. If it is determined that a child is lost or unattended, staff shall try to locate the parent or accompanying adult in the library.

Disruptive Behavior

Disruptive behavior is any form of behavior that seriously or consistently disrupts library patrons or staff, damages library property; interferes with library services; or endangers any person's well-being. When a child displays disruptive behavior, the child or the responsible adult will be reminded that appropriate behavior is a requirement of the library. If the disruptive behavior continues, the child and the responsible adult may be asked to leave the library.

Closing Time

Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be asked to call a parent or responsible adult who can pick them up.

Assistance from Police and Sheriff's Deputies

After attempting to reach a parent or legal guardians, library staff may call local law enforcement to ensure children are in safe custody when a child is unaccompanied and under 10 years old. Library staff may call local law enforcement to ensure children 16 or younger are in safe custody when unaccompanied and excluded from the library due to disruptive behavior, or when unaccompanied after library operating hours.

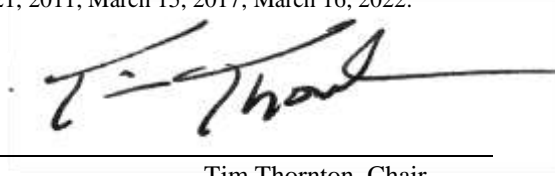
Attachments: Library Code of Conduct

References: None

Approved:

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board of Trustees

October 17, 2001; revised September 21, 2011, March 15, 2017; March 16, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Thornton", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is contained within a light gray rectangular box.

March 16, 2022

Date

Tim Thornton, Chair