

PAULINE HAASS PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICY: Child Safety

Adopted by Library Board: October 16, 2019

Pauline Haass Public Library is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for children and families. Library staff have many duties to perform in order to serve the public. For this reason, the staff cannot monitor the behavior or whereabouts of each patron, including children, or take over parental responsibilities.

- **All children** must abide by the rules in the Library's Code of Conduct, Library Computer Use Policy, and Public Internet Access Policy, regardless of age. It is the responsibility of the parent or caregiver to ensure that their children are complying with these rules.
- **Children age five and under** must be accompanied by, and within view of, an adult or caregiver at all times and in all areas of the building including the Children's Area and the restrooms.
- **Children ages six and seven** must be accompanied by an adult or caregiver who remains in the building and readily available.
- **Children age eight and over** are welcome with or without a parent or caregiver at all times provided they abide by the Library's rules and policies.

When the above rules or listed policies are violated, the following procedures will take place:

- 1st time: Staff will explain the policy or rule in question.
- 2nd time: Staff will issue a verbal warning, including consequence for continued inappropriate behavior.
- Continued violations will result in being asked to leave for the remainder of the day, or as determined by staff.

At closing, if a child who is age fifteen or younger is left unattended in the library and a caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive within 30 minutes, law enforcement officials will be contacted. Two staff members will wait with the child until they are picked up or law enforcement arrives. Under no circumstances will staff members give the child a ride in their private vehicle.

Adopted by Library Board: October 6, 1996

Revised by Library Board: August 9, 2000

Revised by Library Board: December 15, 2004

Revised by Library Board: December 19, 2007

Reviewed by Library Board: October 20, 2010

Reviewed by Library Board: April 22, 2015

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