

Safe Child Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

All branches of BHM Regional Library welcome children of all ages and aim to provide a pleasant, safe environment for children who visit the library. BHM Library staff members have many duties to perform in order to serve the citizens of Beaufort, Hyde and Martin counties. They are unable to monitor the behavior or whereabouts of each patron. In order to help ensure that a child will have a pleasant and safe experience while visiting the library, any child six (6) years of age or younger must be in the presence of a parent or responsible caretaker 16 years of age or older during their entire stay at the library. Any child between the ages of seven and 12 years of age must have a parent or responsible caretaker present in the building during their entire stay at the library. No child of any age should be left alone at the library for more than two hours at a time. The parent/caretaker is responsible for the behavior of the child in the library. Library staff members do not assume responsibility for children in the library.

PROCEDURE-UNATTENDED CHILD AT CLOSING

Beginning 15 minutes before closing, staff will ask any child if they are accompanied by a parent/caretaker or if they have arranged to be picked up by closing time. If not, the child should immediately call for someone to pick them up before closing time. Any child who has not been picked up at closing time should be instructed to call again for someone to pick them up immediately. If the child has not been picked up by 15 minutes after closing, staff will call local law enforcement. A library staff member should remain with the child until an officer arrives. A copy of this Safe Child Policy will be given to parents picking up a child after closing or to the officer who has come to take the child to the police station.

BHM Regional Library Board

Adopted July 30, 2013