

Sanibel Public Library District

Child Safety Policy

The Sanibel Public Library (the "Library") welcomes the use of its services and facilities by children and teens. Staff members are committed to:

- helping children and teens find materials for school work and recreational reading.
- providing an environment that encourages study and exploration.
- presenting programs that inform and enrich.

The safety of children left alone in the Library is a serious concern of the Library staff members. The Library is a public building available for the use of everyone, and Library staff members may not be able to monitor all aspects of patron behavior. The Library cannot guarantee that a child will be safe in the Library or on Library property. Children are expected to adhere to the Library's [Code of Conduct Policy](#) while visiting the Library. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for their child's safety and behavior while on the Library premises whether the parent/guardian/caregiver is present or not. Library employees cannot provide long or short-term supervision for children and are not in loco parentis.

For their own safety and security, children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a caregiver (over the age of 16) while in the Sanibel Public Library. Children ages 0-7 must be continually attended to by a parent, legal guardian, or a caregiver (over the age of 16) at all times in the Library. Children between the ages of 8-11 do not need to be continually attended to as long as a parent, guardian, or caregiver is present and available in the building. Staff will attempt to contact a parent/guardian/caregiver if a child is unattended. If one cannot be reached within ten (10) minutes, law enforcement may be contacted.

Use of the Children's/Teen Areas

The teen area is for minors aged 12-17 unless otherwise specified by Library staff members.

Adults are permitted in children's and teen areas of the Library only when accompanied by a minor or when the adult needs to retrieve materials from the children's or teen areas. If adults are not accompanied by a minor, once they have finished retrieving materials, they will be asked to relocate to another area of the Library.

If an individual does not comply with the staff member's direction or repeatedly violates Library policies, they may be asked to leave the Library.

Unattended Children at Closing

Parents, legal guardians, and caregivers should be familiar with the Library's hours of operation and be aware that the Library may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies or safety issues.

If children under the age of 16 are in the building at the time of closing and have no means of transportation, Library staff members will telephone the parent, guardian, or caregiver and request immediate pick-up of the children. Two staff members should stay with the children until the situation is resolved. Library staff members may not drive children to any location, even at the request of the parent, guardian, or caregiver.

If Library staff members are unable to reach a parent or guardian, or if the children are not picked up within fifteen (15) minutes after the parent, guardian, or designated caregiver has been contacted, Library staff members will contact the police department and request that the police take custody of the children. Library staff members will leave a note prominently displayed on the exterior door to inform the parent, guardian, or designated caregiver that the children have been turned over to the custody of the police.

Library Policy
Sanibel Public Library District Board of Commissioners
Adopted 6/18/2009; Revised 7/24/2025