

Ada Community Library welcomes library use by minors and strives to create a safe, stimulating and appropriate environment for patrons of all ages. The library offers many programs and services that encourage minors to develop a love of books, reading, and learning. Staff members are available to assist with library materials or services.

Minors are subject to all library policies regarding acceptable behavior. Parents, guardians and caregivers, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior, supervision, and materials access of minors in the library.

For purposes of this policy, an unattended minor is a child or teen without a parent, guardian or caregiver to monitor their behavior and wellbeing. The term “caregiver” refers to an adult household member or relative, or guardian charged with the care and supervision of the minor. A “child” is defined as birth through 12 years; “teens” are defined as ages 13-17.

In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of minors and maintain an atmosphere of constructive library use, the following criteria regarding appropriate use of the library by minors and their parents, guardians and caregivers is adopted:

- Minors of any age with mental, physical, or emotional conditions that require supervision shall be in sight of and supervised by a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver (16 years or older) at all times. The library will not determine the age at which an unattended minor may safely and appropriately use the library without a parent, guardian, or caretaker present. The responsibility for such a determination rests with the responsible adult. The library will not provide long or short-term child care nor provide constant surveillance of minors.
- Minors are expected to behave appropriately while at the library. Library staff will enforce library policy but cannot, and will not, act in the place of a parent, guardian or caretaker.
- If, in the judgment and sole discretion of the library staff, a minor of any age becomes upset, disruptive, or becomes a safety concern toward him/herself or others, the minor’s parent, guardian, or caretaker will be notified and directed to remove the minor from the library premises. If

ADA COMMUNITY LIBRARY SAFETY AND USE OF THE LIBRARY BY MINORS POLICY

the library staff is unable to contact the minor's parent, guardian, or caretaker, law enforcement authorities may be asked to assist the library staff in removing the minor from the library premises.

- If the library is closing and a minor is left at the library without transportation home, library staff will assist the minor in contacting a parent/guardian to arrange transportation. If at 15 minutes after closing a minor remains on site, local law authorities will be contacted and the minor will be placed in their care. Under no circumstances will library staff transport or take the minor away from the library building.