

BARTON

LIBRARY

Dare to Know

Minor Children in the Library

Purpose

The Barton Library is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and productive environment for all patrons. While children are encouraged to appropriately use the Library's resources, the Library does not provide childcare services and cannot assume responsibility for unsupervised minors.

Definitions

- **Unattended Child:** A minor under 12 years old who is not accompanied by a responsible adult or caregiver (age 18 or older) and cannot care for themselves or follow Library rules.
- **Guardian:** A parent, caregiver, teacher, chaperone, or babysitter responsible for a child's welfare and behavior.

Supervision of Children

- **Children Under 12:**
 - Must be accompanied and supervised by a guardian at all times.
 - Guardians must remain in the same area as the child and ensure compliance with Library rules.
- **Children Aged 12 and Older:**
 - May use the Library independently but must follow all patron conduct guidelines.

Behavior Expectations

- All children are expected to follow Library rules. Inappropriate behavior, including disruptive conduct, property damage, or verbal/physical abuse, will not be tolerated.
- Disruptive children may be asked to leave the Library. Repeated violations may result in suspension of Library privileges.

Unattended Minors

- **During Library Hours:**
 - Staff will assist unattended children under the age of 12 in locating their guardian.
 - If a guardian cannot be found, Campus Safety will be contacted to assume responsibility for the child.
 - **At Closing or During Emergencies:**
 - Unattended minors will be invited to call a guardian.
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- If a guardian cannot be reached within 30 minutes or at closing time, Campus Safety will take custody of the child.
- Library staff will not provide transportation for minors.

Guardian Responsibilities

- Parents/guardians are responsible for arranging appropriate care for children during class or other activities.
- Changes to Library hours, including emergency closures, are verbally announced by staff and posted on social media. Parents should remain aware of these changes.

Enforcement

- Staff will report all incidents involving unattended or disruptive children to the Director of Library and College Archives.
- Students leaving children unattended on campus, including in the Library, may face disciplinary or legal action.

Contact(s): Director of Library and College Archives

Related Forms:

Relevant Policies and Procedures: [Policy 1535 – Children in the Classroom](#); [Procedure 2476 – Presence of Children, Other Family Members, or Friends in the Workplace](#); [Procedure 2535 – Children in the Classroom](#)

Relevant Guideline(s) and Plan(s): [Patron Conduct](#)

Approved by: Darren L. Ivey

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