SPOKANE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

POLICY: CHILDREN’S SAFETY IN LIBRARIES
Approval Date: March 19, 2013
Revision Date: March 16, 2021

Related Policies
Access to Library Services
Code of Conduct
Computer, Wireless Network and Internet Use

Purpose:
Defines the responsibilities of parents, guardians, and caregivers whose children use Spokane County Library District facilities. Describes how the District responds to situations involving at-risk children.

Policy:
Spokane County Library District strives to create places, programs, and services that encourage children and adults to explore, learn, and create. The District respects the privacy of members who use its libraries, and recognizes it is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and caregivers to monitor and guide their children’s reading and viewing of library materials, and use of District computers and network resources to access the Internet.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are cared for, safe, and feel secure when visiting a District library or attending a library event. District facilities, educational programs and staff cannot act as child care or as replacements for parents, guardians, or caregivers.

District personnel will take appropriate action if a child visiting a library appears to be “at risk,” such as:

- Children who appear to be under the age of six (6) left alone at a library.
- Children of any age who become disruptive or appear to be distressed when left alone or in the care of other children at a library.
- Children who appear to be subjected to physical or emotional abuse while using District facilities.
- Children who appear to be subjected to uninvited interactions.
- Children left alone at closing time who appear to be under the age of 12 or appear distressed.

If a situation such as one of the above occurs, staff shall follow established District procedures, which may include notification of a parent or guardian, law enforcement, or child protective services agency, as appropriate.

The Executive Director will establish administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy. Any appeal of an administrative action under this policy will first be made in writing to the Executive Director and then to the Board of Trustees.

The District will make a good faith effort to implement this policy in a fair and consistent manner.