

SPOKANE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

POLICY: CHILDREN'S SAFETY IN LIBRARIES

Approval Date: March 19, 2013

Revision Date: March 19, 2019

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 that 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. Library facilities, programming 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 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 library 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.



www.scl.d.org

Administrative Offices
509.893.8200
fax 509.893.8472

Airway Heights Library
509.893.8250

Argonne Library
509.893.8260

Cheney Library
509.893.8280

Deer Park Library
509.893.8300

Fairfield Library
509.893.8320

Medical Lake Library
509.893.8330

Moran Prairie Library
509.893.8340

North Spokane Library
509.893.8350

Otis Orchards Library
509.893.8390

Spokane Valley Library
509.893.8400