

Safe Child Policy

It is the aim of the Madison County Public Libraries to provide a welcoming, pleasant, and safe environment for every child who visits the Library. While Library staff will take all reasonable measures to ensure safety and security, they cannot monitor the behavior or whereabouts of each person or child. It must be understood that parents or guardians are fully responsible for their children upon entering the public Library facilities.

- Children under age 10 must be accompanied by an individual 18 years or older who acknowledges responsibility for the child during their entire stay in the Library. Such children must be in the direct presence of a parent or guardians during the entire Library visit.
- Children 1st grade and higher may utilize the Madison County School System's buses to attend afterschool library programs. Parents or guardians must make the proper arrangements with their child's school in advance. Parents or guardians also must make arrangements for the pick up their child after the conclusion of the program and communicate these arrangements with the library.
- If a child of any age violates the rules of conduct in the Library premises, they and any person responsible for them may be asked to leave the premises, in accordance with the Madison County Public Libraries Code of Conduct policy.
- When an unattended child (17 or younger) remains on Library premises 15 minutes before closing, the child will be encouraged to contact a parent or guardian to be sure that transportation has been arranged. If the child has not been picked up after the Library has closed, two staff members will wait with the child for 15 minutes.
- If the minor is still on the premises 15 minutes after closing, Library staff members shall contact local law enforcement. The staff member will record the child's name, parent's name, address, and phone number. The staff members will remain with the child until law enforcement arrives. By prior agreement, local law enforcement will take responsibility for the minor.

The rules set forth in this policy are in addition to, and do not supersede, the requirements and prohibitions applying to every person under state and federal laws. Failure to comply with the provisions of this policy may result in the suspension of privileges, including the right to use Library services or be on the premises. Any suspected violation of the North Carolina General Statutes will be documented and reported to local law enforcement.