

## **Richland Public Library SAFE CHILD POLICY**

The Richland Public Library is a public building and patrons of all ages are welcome. The Richland Public Library encourages children to experience the collections, services, and programs it offers. The following guidelines ensure their use of the Library is a positive and safe experience.

1. All children are expected to abide by the Library's Rules of Conduct while on library property, both inside and outside.
2. The Library is not responsible for the actions, supervision, or safety of a child or for guiding or monitoring a child's use of the Library.
3. A child under 6 years of age must be attended and supervised by a caregiver at all times. A caregiver must be 13 years of age or older.
4. Any unattended youth 12 years old or younger must have the following information on file with the library: guardian's name and phone number and an emergency contact's name and phone number in case the guardian cannot be reached. This will enable staff to contact a caregiver in case of an accident, illness, behavioral issues or other emergency situations.
5. Library staff will attempt to contact a child's caregiver if:
  - a child under 6 years of age is in the Library unattended
  - a child under 13 years of age is left unattended at closing
  - a child under 18 years of age does not follow the Library's Rules of Conduct.
6. If a caregiver cannot be reached the library staff will notify the Richland police or the county Sheriff.
7. Failure to comply may result in the suspension of Library privileges which includes exclusion from the Library property.

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