Unattended Children Policy

Reviewed and Adopted by: Library Board of Trustees

Date of Origin: 10/29/2025 Revision:

Effective Date: 10/29/2025

The Meeker Regional Library District ("MRLD") welcomes users of all ages. To ensure a safe and pleasant environment for all patrons, the following policy governs the supervision of children in the Meeker Public Library ("Library").

Supervision Requirements

- Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied at all times by a responsible person aged 14 or older.
- The accompanying person is responsible for supervising, guiding, and controlling the behavior of the child while in the Library.
- Library staff are not responsible for supervising unattended children.

Unattended or Disruptive Children

If a child is left unattended and any of the following situations arise, staff may attempt to locate the parent or responsible person. If the responsible person cannot be found, staff may contact law enforcement or another appropriate authority:

1. The child behaves in a disruptive or inappropriate manner.
2. The child appears to be a danger to themselves or others.
3. The child appears to be threatened or harassed by others.
4. The child appears ill, distressed, or upset.
5. The child is unable to care for themselves when the Library closes.

In the event of a medical or safety emergency, staff may call **911** or the appropriate emergency responder immediately.

Responsibility of Parents and Caregivers

The Library is a public facility open to everyone. However, neither the Library nor its staff members act in loco parentis (in place of parents). Libraries are public facilities which are open to everyone, and parents and caregivers are expected to accompany children in need of supervision on Library visits to ensure the safety and well-being of children. At all times, parents

or caregivers are responsible for their child's behavior and safety. **If a child is not able to leave the Library without an adult, he/she should not be in the Library unattended**.

Lost or At-Risk Children

If an unattended child appears to be lost, is being disruptive, or if in the judgment of supervisory staff, their safety is jeopardized, Library staff will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver. If the parents or caregivers cannot be located, the child may be placed in the care of the local law enforcement agency.

Verification of Custody or Authority

The Library and its staff members will not, under any circumstances, be responsible for determining whether an apparent caregiver, custodian or parent is a legally authorized caregiver, custodian or custodial parent of the child.

MRLD is released from any and all liability regarding this policy. Parents, guardians, and caregivers acknowledge the risk of leaving a child unattended in the Library and release MRLD from all claims which they may have or which they may have on behalf of their child/ward.