



LaGrange Library Policy: Safe Child Policy

LaGrange Association Library is dedicated to providing a warm, welcoming, exciting and safe environment for people of all ages. It is for the safety of each child that the Library has adopted this Safe Child Policy.

The safety of children left alone in the Library is a serious concern of the Library staff. The Library Staff, however, has many duties to perform in order to serve all the residents in LaGrange. They cannot monitor the behavior and safety of children using the Library. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the Library rests with the parent or caregiver and not with the Library staff. A caregiver is defined as an individual 18 years of age and over.

Children under the age of 12 must be supervised at all times by a caregiver, who is an individual 18 years of age and over or by their parent.

Children, ages 12-14, may use the Library on their own for a reasonable period of time, provided they are able to maintain proper library behavior in accordance with our Patron Code of Conduct. Parents are still, however, responsible for the actions of their children. Children using what is deemed inappropriate behavior by the Library staff may be asked to leave the Library. If a child of this age group is not able to leave the Library without an adult, he/she should not be in the Library alone. Children must also have the phone number of a parent or caregiver that may be contacted in an emergency.

Young people, ages 14-17, are treated as adult users. However, they are still legally the responsibility of their parents.

Unattended Children After Closing Time

Library staff will exercise appropriate procedures to ensure the safety of unattended children when the Library is closing. Parents are responsible for being aware of the times the Library opens and closes. Parents must also keep in mind that the Library may close unexpectedly for reasons out of the control of staff, such as a power outage.

1. If no ride has arrived within 15 minutes after closing time, the staff will call the Sheriff's Department. Library staff will wait for the Sheriff with the child.
2. Staff will record the parent's/caretaker's name, address, telephone number and the child's name.
3. Once found, the parent/caretaker will be given a copy of the Safe Child Policy.
4. Staff will refer any additional incidents to the Sherriff's Department.

Library staff cannot give rides to any child.

Violation of the Safe Child Policy may result in suspension of Library privileges for the family.