

UNATTENDED MINORS POLICY

In order to fulfill the Azalea Regional Library System's (AZRLS) mission and purpose, provide an atmosphere conducive to study and the appropriate use of the library's services and facilities, and provide for the safety, comfort and welfare of patrons of all ages, AZRLS has adopted the following policy:

AZRLS is not responsible for the care of unattended minors.

AZRLS will provide services consistent with its mission statement but will not act as, nor provide services associated with, a daycare, after school care facility, summer camp or babysitting service. AZRLS will make no determination as to the suitability or authority of anyone arriving or being contacted to transport a minor from library grounds or for minors leaving library grounds with either another minor or an adult.

Children under the age of 12 may not be left unattended in the library. Care providers must supervise and provide guidance and control for their charges at all times. Adult supervision must be provided to all children under the age of 12.

Children between the ages of 12 and 15 should not be left unattended in the library for extended periods of time.

Attendance at library programs, browsing for recreational reading, and after school use of the library for homework and study are encouraged and considered appropriate. In general, AZRLS considers more than 2-3 hours (depending on the age and conduct of the child) to be excessive and inappropriate. Parents may be notified and asked to pick up and/or provide supervision for their child.

Unattended minors who do not abide by AZRLS rules and policies, or who exhibit unacceptable behavior, will be asked to leave, and/or call their parents for a ride.

If a minor is unable to contact their parents or if a ride does not arrive after 15 minutes, they may be considered abandoned and the authorities called. Library employees will wait with minors for 15 minutes before contacting the authorities.

AZRLS is not responsible for minors without a ride home at closing. Minors without a ride home at closing may be considered abandoned and the authorities called after 15 minutes. Employees of AZRLS may not offer to or transport minors to their home or any other location.

Medical Emergencies: The library will immediately contact emergency medical services, if needed. AZRLS will not be responsible for any treatment administered or any result thereof nor any cost associated with the provision of such services.