

Town of Grimshaw Municipal Library Board Policy

Subject: Library Services: Unattended Children

Policy: 7/J 2019

Date Approved: May 20th 2019

The Grimshaw Municipal Library is dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming environment that is accessible, inclusive and comfortable in which all residents and visitors may meet and interact. Families with young children are encouraged to use and enjoy the library's facilities, resources, services and programs so long as they do so with respect of others who use our public facility.

Library staff cannot care for, nor assume responsibility for, children who are left unattended in the library. Parents are advised to exercise the same caution with their children as they would in any other public setting. Responsibility for the well-being and behaviour of children who use the library rests with the parent, legal guardian or caregiver.

The following rules are generally defined based on the child's age; maturity and self-directed behaviour including the ability to accurately recite or produce contact information for a parent, legal guardian or caregiver:

- Children under 6 years must be under the direct supervision of a parent, guardian or caregiver at all times.
- Children ages 6 – 12 years may use the library unaccompanied to attend programs (unless otherwise posted) or access services. Parents, guardians or caregivers must be aware of operational hours, and contact information must be provided.

Disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated; parents, guardians or caregivers will be contacted to immediately pick up their child. If the parent, guardian or caregiver cannot be reached within 30 minutes the RCMP may be notified that we have a disruptive unattended minor.

Under no circumstances will library staff transport or take a child away from the library facility. If a child remains in the library after the posted hours of operation library staff will respond according to procedure. Every effort will be made to contact the parent, guardian or caregiver.

