

**CUS-5 Unattended Children**

Effective: September 10, 2019

**Policy Statement** – The Camden County Library System is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the Library, attend programs and make use of Library services. Library staff is available to assist and support children in the use of the Library and its resources. However, it is not the role of the Library to provide long or short term child care.

**Regulations:**

1. A child is defined as a minor aged 17 years of age or younger.
2. Children ages 7 and under must be directly supervised at all times by a responsible person when in the Library. A responsible person is defined as someone aged 13 years of age or older who is able and willing to provide care and supervision.
3. Children of any age who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision from a caregiver.
4. All Library users, including children, are expected to behave appropriately and abide by the Library's Code of Conduct (see policy CUS-1, Customer Behavior). Children whose behavior is in violation of the Code of Conduct may be asked to leave the Library.
5. If the Library is closing, at regular time or in an emergency situation, and a parent or guardian of a child cannot be located in the building, staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian cannot be contacted, or are contacted but have not arrived to pick up their child within 15 minutes of closing, the staff will call the police and place the child in their care.