



## Child Safety Policy

East Morgan County Library District welcomes and encourages children to use the materials and services of the libraries. As libraries are essential to the lives of children, we strive to provide useful, safe and inviting spaces for youth on our property.

However, neither the library nor its staff members act in loco parentis (in place of parents). The libraries are public facilities that are open to everyone. Parents or caregivers are expected to accompany children under the age of eight years on library visits to ensure the safety and well-being of their children. At all times, parents or caregivers are responsible for their children's behavior and safety. If any child appears to be lost, is being disruptive, disorderly, left alone for long periods of time, or if in the judgment of staff, his or her safety is jeopardized, staff will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver.

Staff members are not responsible for giving children or library patrons a ride home. If necessary, appropriate law enforcement or child protection authorities will be notified. If the parents or caregiver cannot be located, and the child is under the age of sixteen years, the child may be placed in the care of the local law enforcement agency.

Two staff members will remain with the child until the parent, guardian, caregiver or law enforcement arrive. Once the child is in the protective care of law enforcement, a note will be attached to the Library entrance, with the following information: "Unattended child is in the care of law enforcement." Neither the name of the child nor the name of the parent, guardian, or caregiver will be listed on the note. 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. Parents **should not** direct their children to the library in the event of emergency school closings, because the same conditions that have cause a school closing may also effect library operations.

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