



<b>TITLE: Child Conduct and Safety in the Library</b>		
<b>COMMITTEE: Internal</b>	<b>Passed: 04/01/2018</b>	<b>Review Period: Every 5 years</b>
<b>Topic: Patron Behavior</b>	<b>Amended:</b>	<b>Date of Next Review: 04/01/2023</b>

## Child Conduct and Safety in the Library Policy

Ponoka Jubilee Library welcomes children to enjoy its programs and services. Library staff are trained to assist children in using the Library, however they cannot accept responsibility for children's safety and supervision. Our Library is a public building with all the inherent dangers of such a setting. Library policies and services are designed to provide a safe and welcoming environment for Library users of all ages. Guardians are expected to use the same caution with their children at the Library as they would in any other public setting.

### Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide Library staff with guidelines when confronted with a situation where a child's conduct is unacceptable or the child's security is at risk.

### Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- A "child" is a person under thirteen years of age unless otherwise specified;
- A "guardian" is any person who is either the natural, adoptive, or foster guardian of the child;
- A "caregiver" is anyone over 12 years to whom the guardian has given responsibility for the care of the younger child.

### Child Conduct in the Library

Guardians are responsible for the conduct of their children in the Library as outlined below:

- Guardians must ensure that children requiring supervision are brought to the Library with a responsible caregiver;
- Children under 5 years must have a guardian or caregiver in the immediate vicinity providing active supervision;
- Children between 5-8 must have a guardian or caregiver in the immediate vicinity unless they are participating in a Library program;

- Guardians or caregivers who do not attend a program with the child under 9 years of age must remain on the premises;
- Children 9 years and over may use the Library unattended for an amount of time appropriate to their age and maturity;
- The Library may require children who are in chronic violation of Library rules to be accompanied by a guardian/caregiver during Library visits for a period to be determined by senior management.