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WESTERN PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM

Children in the Library Policy

WPLS is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for customers of all ages and consider the safety of children in the library of utmost importance. Every effort is made to provide a safe facility; however, the library is a public building open to all, and unsupervised children are more vulnerable. The library is not able to provide long or short-term care for children whose parents are in another part of the library, outside, or absent from the library.

Children in the Library

Children will be held to the *WPLS Customer Conduct Policy* and the consequences therein. If staff determine that a child is in violation of the policy, the child and any present caregivers will be informed. If the behavior is not remedied, the consequences laid out in the *WPLS Customer Conduct Policy* may be invoked.

WPLS is not responsible for children who are unattended or are demonstrating inappropriate behavior. Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. Neither WPLS nor any staff member acts in *loco parentis*. If the caregiver cannot be found, staff will contact law enforcement to pick up the child.

Children up to age 7

Children up to age 7 must be in sight of and supervised by a parent/caregiver at all times. A caregiver must be at least 13 years old. Parents or caregivers who do not attend programs are still responsible for their children and must remain in the library during the program.

Children ages 8-16

Children ages 8-16 may use the library unattended as long as they do not interrupt the library environment.

When a child reaches the age of 17 years old, their library card turns into an adult card, and thus the individual is perceived to be an adult.