

## Carnegie-Stout Public Library

### **POLICY ON CHILDREN UNACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

#### **STATEMENT**

The City of Dubuque and the Carnegie-Stout Public Library are not responsible for the care of unattended children. The Library Board and staff of the Library want to provide a safe environment for children at the Library without taking responsibility from parents for the welfare of their children. The Library cannot accept the responsibility for safety and well-being of unattended children.

#### **UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN EIGHT (8) YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER**

Children eight (8) years old or less who are left on Library property without an accompanying adult (minimum age of 16), parent or guardian in the building often require individual attention by staff to the point that regular library services are disrupted. If a child in this age group is found unattended, Library staff will contact the parent(s). Police may be called to provide assistance. More than one such occurrence will result in suspension of Library privileges. Parents are requested to maintain direct supervision of their children.

#### **CHILDREN LEFT AT THE LIBRARY AFTER CLOSING**

Children fifteen (15) years old or less should not be left on Library property at closing time. Procedures for dealing with the situation if a child is left at closing may include contacting the parent, contacting the police, and assigning staff to stay on a paid time basis if the child's safety is a concern. Children who leave Library property on their own are not the responsibility of the Library or its staff. Violation of this policy may also result in the suspension of privileges of the parent(s), the child and/or a fine of \$25.00 per 1/4 hour that the child is left after closing if Library staff needs to stay after hours.

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By,   
Patty Poggemiller, President  
Library Board of Trustees