

## **CUSTOMER CONDUCT/UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY**

The Angie W. Cox Public Library is required to provide for the general safety and welfare of all customers using the library. Any disruption or interference with the normal operation of the public library hinders not only the effectiveness of the overall library operation in fulfilling its responsibilities, but also impinges on the rights of other customers to a suitable library environment. Consequently, the Angie W. Cox Public Library Board establishes as policy, a requirement that customer behavior in the Angie W. Cox Public Library be based upon a standard of respect and consideration for the rights of others. There will be restrictions on behavior and speech that disrupts the work and use of the public library, or interferes with the rights of other customers.

Because of the particular problem presented by unattended children, the Angie W. Cox Public Library shall adopt the following rules and regulations as it relates to unattended children.

- All children age 5 or younger shall, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person (e.g. an adult or mature adolescent).
- Children who are 5 years of age, but who are less than 8 years of age may be left unattended for up to one-half hour in the library, except during scheduled library programs at which time the person responsible for the supervision of the child may elect to be absent for the duration of the program. If that person who is responsible for the supervision of the child intends to leave the building while the child remains in the library, then the person shall leave word with the Library Director, Assistant or Aide as to their whereabouts. However, persons responsible for children who have special problems related to physical and mental ability, disruptive behavior, emotional problems, lack of adequate attention span, or incomplete social skills shall remain with their children at all times. In the above mentioned exception, (absence during supervised library programs) this shall not apply to these children.
- Children from the age of 8 years or older may use the library unattended subject to the other rules and regulations promulgated by the Angie W. Cox Public Library concerning behavior, conduct and demeanor.

The Angie W. Cox Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on library premises.