

**CITY OF TEXAS CITY MOORE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
**CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT POLICY**  
(Approved by the City Commission on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 )

The Moore Memorial Public Library has the responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and welcoming for all. Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same "Rules of Behavior as adults". Parents, guardians, or assigned chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their children while on library property.

Children ages 8-9 may be in the Children's Department by themselves if a responsible individual **at least 14 years** of age or older is in the library with them. Children under the age of eight **must** be accompanied (within line of sight) by a responsible individual **at least 14 years** of age or older at all times. If a parent or the responsible person for an unaccompanied child under the age of eight cannot be located in the library, an attempt will be made to reach the parent/guardian by phone. If this is not successful, the police will be called.

Children under the age of eight must be supervised at all times and be within the sight of the parent or person responsible for the child. Children's Department staff cannot be responsible for the safety of unattended children.

Older children who violate our "Rules of Behavior" may be asked to leave the Library. If the child cannot safely leave the Library on his or her own, staff will attempt to call a parent or guardian. If no parent/guardian can be contacted, Library staff will either allow the child to remain at the Library under close supervision until a parent/guardian can be contacted or contact the police, depending upon the severity of the situation.

Children under the age of 14 who have not been picked up within thirty minutes before closing time may be given the opportunity to call a parent. If a parent cannot be reached, police may be called to ensure their safety until a responsible adult picks them up.