

Policies of the University of North Texas Health Science Center	Chapter 04 – Administration
04.207 Policy on Children in the Library	

Policy Statement.

In order to maintain a safe and pleasant environment for work and study, the Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library adopts the policy below concerning children in the library. This statement is a supplement to UNTHSC Policy 4.108, Children on Health Science Center Property. To ensure the safety of all patrons and employees in the building and facilitate the pursuit of its education and research missions, the library reaffirms its commitment to UNTHSC Policy 4.108 and requires that children under the age of 18 not be left unattended in the building.

The Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library is a minimally supervised space with an environment tailored to the teaching and research needs of the students, staff, and faculty of the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. The library is a multi-floor operation open for use by UNTHSC students, faculty, and staff, and by adult members of the public in accordance with UNTHSC policies and procedures. A child left in the library may become bored, frightened, ill, lost, or injured, and could encounter a variety of strangers.

Application of Policy.

This policy applies to all children in the Lewis Library who are under 18 years of age.

Definitions.

1. “Child” or “children”. Persons under the age of 18.

Procedures and Responsibilities.

1. Children under the age of 18 in the Lewis Library must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. This includes the children of UNTHSC employees and students. While in Lewis Library, children are expected to follow the same behavior rules as other patrons.

Responsible Party: Parents, guardians, UNTHSC employees and students

2. If a child is in the library with an adult but is behaving inappropriately, library staff will inform the adult that the child should be supervised. If requested, the adult will be given a copy of the Policy on Children in the Library.

Responsible Party: Library staff members

3. Children are not allowed to use Lewis Library computers without the direct and immediate supervision of a parent or guardian. Exceptions to this may be made for organized library visits that are part of UNTHSC-sponsored programs, activities, and events. All patrons using library computers must abide by the Policy on Use of Library Computers and Electronic Resources.

Responsible Party: Parents, guardians, Library patrons

4. If an unattended child is found in the library, staff will attempt to contact the child's parent or guardian and arrange for the child to be picked up or supervised. If requested, the adult will be given a copy of the Policy on Children in the Library.

Responsible Party: Library Staff

5. If an unattended child becomes ill, injured, or involved in an incident, staff will attempt to contact a parent or guardian. If immediate action is required, staff will follow established UNTHSC emergency procedures.

Responsible Party: Library staff

6. This policy shall be considered/applied by the Library staff in conformity with other UNTHSC policies, including but not limited to Policy 4.108, Children on Health Science Center Property.

Responsible Party: Library staff

References and Cross-references.

03. 105 Campus Programs and Activities Involving Minors

04.108 Children on Health Science Center Property

UNTHSC Emergency Procedures

04.301 Acceptable Electronic Communications Use Policy

04.202 Policy on Use of Library Computers and Electronic Resources

Forms and Tools. (optional)

Approved: May 2005

Effective: May 2005

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