

Unattended Children and Vulnerable Adults

Parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children or vulnerable adults regardless of age while in the library or on library property.

Library staff will not be expected to supervise or monitor children's behavior.

Children under the age of 8 must be attended by a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver. The parent, guardian or responsible caregiver must be at least 16 years old and should remain in the library at all times. If a child under the age of 8 is attending a library-sponsored program on the premises, the parent, a guardian, or responsible caregiver is to remain on the premises for the duration of the program.

Patrons of any age who, because of developmental disability, mental illness, or physical disability, require supervision or personal care shall be attended by a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver at all times.

Children ages 5 and under must be within the visual contact of a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver at all times, including during programs and visits to the restroom. Children ages 5 and under may not be left in the Youth Services Department alone.

Staff will not be responsible if unattended children of any age or vulnerable adults leave the library premises alone or with other persons.

We request that all unattended children and vulnerable adults be picked up at least ten minutes before closing time. Parents, guardians and responsible caregivers need to be aware of when the library closes.

Children 8 years or older and vulnerable adults must know their telephone number and other contact information if they are unattended at the library. It is a violation of library policy not to come immediately and pick up unattended child/children or a vulnerable adult if the library calls.

Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver when:

1. The health or safety of an unattended child or vulnerable adult is in doubt
2. A child or vulnerable adult is frightened while alone at the library.
3. The behavior of an unattended child or vulnerable adult violates library policy.
4. The unattended child or vulnerable adult has not been met by a parent, legal guardian, custodian or responsible caregiver at closing time.

Unattended Children and Vulnerable Adults at Closing.

If a parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver cannot be reached by closing time or fails to arrive by closing time, the library staff will attempt to call the legal guardian, custodian or

responsible caregiver. At least two library staff members will remain with the unattended child or vulnerable adult until he or she is picked up. If the parent, legal guardian, or caregiver is not available by phone and there is no assurance that the child or vulnerable adult will be picked up within a reasonable time, police will be called after 15 minutes. Library staff will contact law enforcement officials to take charge of the situation involving the unattended child or vulnerable adult.

Library staff members are not permitted to transport an unattended child or vulnerable adult under any circumstances. If the parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver can be reached by closing time, the staff member shall explain the library's policy and provide a copy of this policy.

If the police are contacted and the child or vulnerable adult is transported by the police to another location, the library staff shall leave a note on the door (without information identifying the patron) to notify the parent, legal guardian or caregiver regarding the location of the child or vulnerable adult.

Approved 11/20/2018