

## Unattended Children Policy

The Board of Trustees of the Community Library adopts and makes public the following written policies.

### **I. Visiting the Library**

For the safety of all children who visit the Community Library, children eight years of age and younger must be accompanied and directly supervised by a responsible caregiver who assumes full accountability for the children's safety and behavior in the library. "Directly supervised" means the child and the caregiver must be able to observe one another at all times.

The library staff members do not serve in loco parentis for children in the library.

- If a child age eight years of age or younger appears to be left unsupervised, library staff will attempt to locate the caregiver and have him or her return to the area. The individual will be advised of library policy.
- If the situation occurs again and the caregiver is not the parent, the policy will be restated and the name and address of the child's parent or legal guardian will be obtained. A letter outlining the policy may be mailed to the child's parent or legal guardian, noting the safety concerns and possible consequences if not corrected.
- If there are additional instances of the same child being left unsupervised on library premises, the Library will act in the interest of the child by reporting the situation to the police.

### **II. At Library Programs**

Some library programs require the caregiver to accompany the child during the program. For all other library programs, caregivers of children eight years of age and younger must remain in the library and be readily available.

### **III. At Closing Time**

- Parents or guardians must pick up their children aged nine through twelve prior to Library closing time. Those who are not picked up by closing time may be placed, for their protection, in the custody of the police.
- In the event of inclement weather, minors aged thirteen through seventeen who are waiting to be picked up at closing time may be placed, for their protection, in the custody of the police.
- Staff members will never transport a minor or minors home.