



UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

Purpose

In order to provide an environment that allows everyone to use the library in a safe manner, the Board of Library Trustees has adopted this policy concerning unattended children. Parents/caregivers should be mindful that the library is a public building open to all individuals, and that unattended children are vulnerable. Responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent/caregiver, not with library personnel.

Guidelines

Illinois law (705 ILCS 405/2-3) states that parents/caregivers must not leave minors under the age of 14 years without supervision for an unreasonable period of time. As a result, the library asks that minors be accompanied by a responsible parent or caregiver who assumes full responsibility for the child's safety and behavior in the library.

When a minor child attends a library program, the parent/caregiver must be readily available, and is expected to join the child promptly at the end of the program.

Library staff members are responsible for providing the best possible service to all patrons and, therefore, cannot supervise unattended children. The La Grange Park Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended. The staff do not monitor children leaving the premises, nor is it their responsibility to know with whom a child is leaving.

Staff may need to contact authorities, such as the police, either to assist with the enforcement of discipline in the library or to ensure the safety of an unattended child.

When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or the parent/caregiver cannot be located, or if the library is closing, library staff is authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive. Under no circumstances will a library staff member drive a child home.