

Unattended Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy

The Western Allegheny Community Library welcomes everyone to use its facilities and services. However, the care, safety, and behavior of children and vulnerable adults using the library are the responsibility of the parent, guardian or a caregiver.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, a *child* is anyone nine (9) years old or younger. A *vulnerable adult* is a person who is due to mental or other disability, age or illness, unable to take care of him or herself.

Guidelines

- The library is not responsible for the safety or wellbeing of any patron left unattended.
- The library staff does not provide care or supervision of children or vulnerable adults in the library except to the extent needed to uphold the library rules of conduct and use.
- Exceptions may be made for children ages 5 years and up attending library programs. Children attending Library programs, are for the duration of the program only, considered to be supervised by library staff and thus are not unattended. However, **during this time, a parent, guardian or caregiver is required to remain on the premises.**
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for the appropriate behavior of their children in the library.
- Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver over the age of 16.
- Children ages 10 or older may be in the library unattended for a reasonable period of time as long as they are legitimately engaged in library activities. Appropriate library behavior is expected.

PATRON POLICY

- The library staff is not responsible for preventing children or vulnerable adults from leaving the library or its grounds.
- Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional problems which render supervision necessary shall be accompanied by a suitable caregiver at all times.
- Children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other patrons and are subject to the same consequences, including being asked to leave the library.
- When library staff is made aware of an unattended child or vulnerable adult, library staff will make a reasonable attempt to locate the parent, guardian or caregiver. If the responsible parent, guardian or caregiver is not located, the library staff will notify the police.
- The library staff will deal with a child or vulnerable adult left at closing by making a reasonable attempt to contact the parent, guardian or caregiver. If the parent, guardian or caregiver cannot be reached, library staff will contact the police. Two staff members will remain with the child or vulnerable adult until the police arrive.