



Unattended Child Policy

The York Public Library welcomes youth from birth to 12th grade to use its facilities and services. In order to protect the safety of minors at the York Public Library, everyone who uses the Library and its campus must observe the Unattended Child Policy.

Minors in the Library:

- The Library does not operate *in loco parentis*; parents or legal guardians have sole responsibility for the behavior and well-being of youth using the Library.
- Understanding that children mature at different rates, the following guidelines have been established:
 - Youth **ages 9 and under** must have an actively engaged parent or responsible caregiver (age 14+) in visual contact with the child.
 - Patrons of any age with differences that affect decision-making or render supervision necessary must be accompanied by a chaperone at all times.
 - Responsible caregivers must be at least **14 years of age**.
 - Youth ages **10 and older** may use the Library unsupervised, but must be able to reach a parent or caregiver immediately if necessary.
- Situations may arise when it may be necessary for the Library to close without prior notice. Unaccompanied youth who cannot transport themselves must be able to reach a parent or responsible adult caregiver for immediate pick-up.

Closing Time:

- When visiting the Library unsupervised, youth must have made arrangements to be picked up prior to closing time. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to know the Library's hours of operation.
- Staff will NOT transport youth home, nor will the child be permitted to sit in a staff person's vehicle.
- If a parent or caregiver is not on time to pick up an unattended minor and there is inclement weather, it is after dusk and/or the minor does not have access to a charged cell phone, staff will contact the York Police Department for additional support.
- If a parent/guardian or responsible caregiver can't be reached by phone when needed, Library staff reserve the right to contact the York Police Department for support if necessary.
- If the police are involved, an incident report describing the situation will be filed and given to the Library Director.

Approved by the York Public Library Board of Trustees on September 10, 2021