

Poplar Creek Public Library District Unattended Children's Policy

Poplar Creek Public Library District (PCPLD) welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children of all ages. However, the Library is a busy public building and public places are not always safe for unattended children. Parents are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children in the Library and on Library property, whether or not the parents are in attendance. Library staff are not responsible for the supervision of children.

Children Under the Age of Twelve (12)

Children under the age of twelve (12) may not be left unattended in the library and must be accompanied by a caregiver. The library requires that the caregiver be the child's parent or legal guardian, or an adult or adolescent age fourteen (14) or older who has been designated by the parent or guardian to care for the child.

Children Under the Age of Eight (8)

Children under the age of eight (8) shall, at all times, be in the immediate presence of said caregiver. Caregivers accompanying children ages eight (8) through eleven (11) shall remain in the same general area of the Library as the child at all times and keep the child in their line of sight. These rules apply at all times unless the child is attending a designated library program where adult presence is not required, during which time adults accompanying children under twelve (12) years of age must remain in the Library and must promptly pick up his/her child as soon as the program is over.

Children Ages Twelve (12) and Up

Children ages twelve (12) and up are welcome to use the Library unattended as long as they are mature enough to follow Library rules and observe proper conduct. Any child who is at the Library without supervision must be able to contact a responsible person in case of emergency for transportation needs.

Children with Special Needs

Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities which affect decision-making skills or render supervision necessary must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times. Library patrons needing any special accommodations should communicate these needs to Library staff.

Disruptive Behavior in Children

If a child is being disruptive to other patrons or violating Library rules, Library staff will first issue a verbal warning to the child and/or their caregiver, informing them that the child's behavior is not acceptable. Children who continue to engage in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the Library; staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian.

Children Unattended at Closing

Parents are responsible for being aware of Library hours and for picking up their child(ren) before closing. If a child under the age of 18 is not picked up within 15 minutes of the Library's closing time, and the parent/guardian has already been called, the local police department will be called. Under no circumstances will Library staff transport any child in a personal or Library vehicle to the child's home or any other location.