Poplar Creek Public Library District
Unattended Children & Vulnerable Adult Policy

Poplar Creek Public Library District (PCPLD) welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children and vulnerable adults. The library strives to provide a welcoming, secure, and supportive environment for all visitors. Parents, guardians, or caregivers are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children and vulnerable adults in the library and on library property, whether or not those adults are in attendance. Library staff are not responsible for the supervision and safety of children and vulnerable adults.

Definitions
Unattended child: A child 9 and under not accompanied by a responsible caregiver who is on-site and actively supervising.

Responsible caregiver: A parent, guardian, or caregiver aged 14 or older, who is capable of monitoring and supervising the child.

Vulnerable adult: A person who is over 18 and may have a physical, mental, or emotional disability that affects their ability to care for themselves or make decisions.

Supervision Guidelines
Children age 9 and under require direct supervision by a responsible caregiver at all times. If a child under age 9 is participating in a program and the caregiver needs to leave temporarily, they must remain on library property and leave updated contact information at the service desk.

Children age 10 and up may use the library independently as long as they adhere to the Patron Code of Conduct and their responsible caregiver can be reached by phone. For everyone's safety, caregivers should make sure their children are sufficiently mature before allowing them to visit the library without supervision. In addition, the library should not be viewed as an alternative to daycare.

Vulnerable adults who are unwilling or unable to care for themselves must be accompanied by an adult (age 18 and over) caregiver or family member at all times. Vulnerable adults may use the library unattended, provide they understand and adhere to the Patron Code of Conduct and their responsible caregiver can be reached by phone.

Unattended at Closing
Parents and caregivers are responsible for being aware of library hours and for picking up their child(ren) or vulnerable adult at least 15 minutes before closing. If a vulnerable adult or child 13 and under are present at closing, staff members will attempt to contact a caregiver for 15 minutes. If a caregiver cannot be reached, the police will be called. Under no circumstances will library staff transport any person.

Adopted by the PCPLD Board of Trustees on October 20, 2016; Updated September 26, 2017; November 15, 2018; Updated Nov 21, 2019; November 18, 2021; March 16, 2023; August 21, 2025.