

Unattended Children Policy

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, March 10, 2010, updated November 13, 2024

As a public library, one of our highest priorities is to foster a love of learning and reading in the young people of our community. Children are encouraged to use and enjoy the library, our collections, services, and programs.

The Pittsburg Public Library is also an open, public building where the well-being and safety of children left alone is a serious concern. Therefore, library personnel will not assume the responsibility for the care or supervision of unattended children.

- Library personnel do not provide care or supervision of children, except to the extent needed to uphold library rules of conduct and use, and do not accept responsibility for such care. Parents or other caregivers are responsible for their children and their behavior.
- Children under the age of eight may not be left unattended in the library and should be accompanied by their care provider (age 16 or older) at all times, including during programs.
- Children age eight and older may be left unattended provided they are mature enough to behave responsibly when left alone. These children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other patrons, as well as the same consequences, **including being asked to leave the library**. Parents and caregivers should consider this when deciding whether to allow the child to visit the library alone.
- Any age child with mental, physical, or emotional conditions which require supervision shall be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times.
- Children's areas are designated for children and their caregivers; Teen areas are designated for grades 6—12. Adults unaccompanied by youth may be asked by Library staff to use facilities, services, and/or equipment in the adult section of the Library.
- When children are left unattended at closing, at least two library staff will wait with the child and attempt to contact a parent or care provider. Library staff will not drive children home. After 15 minutes, the police will be contacted to take care of the child.
- Parents/legal guardians/caregivers and children who are in violation of this policy may be subject to suspension of library privileges.