

## **UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY**

Flossmoor Public Library encourages children of all ages to take advantage of the Library's resources to meet their informational, recreational and educational needs. The Library Board asserts that it is the responsibility of the parents or adult guardians to ensure the appropriate behavior of their children in the Library. The Library's facilities are not licensed or designed to provide basic child care needs such as physical exercise, nutrition or emergency care. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. It is impossible for the Library staff to guarantee a safe environment.

The Library is not a daycare facility. Children under the age of nine must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible caregiver (age 18 or over) at all times while in the Library. When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or the parent or responsible adult caregiver cannot be located, or if the Library is closing, Library staff are authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive.

Unattended children nine and over are free to use the Library's resources as long as is practical, provided that their behavior is not disruptive to other patrons or staff members. Children whose behavior violates the Library's Patron Behavior Policy will receive a warning. If their behavior persists, they will be asked to leave the Library. Parents or adult guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children in the Library, whether or not the parents or adult guardians are in attendance. Library staff are required to notify the appropriate authorities if they have reason to suspect that there is evidence of abuse or neglect.

Children age nine and older may use the library without supervision outside of school hours. However, parents are still responsible for the actions and the well-being of their child(ren). Children who are home schooled, e-schooled, or otherwise using the library during regular school hours must provide staff with a document or confirmation of their school status. If they are unable to provide this, they will be asked to leave until school hours have passed.

Revised by the Board of Trustees: May 12, 2015

Revised by the Board of Trustees: November 12, 2019

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