

Greensburg Hempfield Area Library

Unattended Children

Policy Number: 5

Date Last Updated: August 20, 2015

Purpose: To address the safety of children visiting the library.

References: ALA Code of Ethics; ALA Library Bill of Rights, Pa. Code Chapter 42 §42.42.

Statement of Policy: Library patrons are expected to use the Library, including its facilities, grounds, resources and material, in a responsible, appropriate and courteous manner. Illegal acts or conduct in violation of Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations are prohibited. Behavior that disturbs or infringes on the rights of other Library patrons and staff and which damages library materials and property is not permitted. This policy applies to patrons of all ages.

1. The Library assumes no responsibility for the safety or well-being of any patron beyond the extent reasonably expected of a public facility.
2. The Library staff is not responsible for any unattended minor child.
3. The Library staff is not responsible for preventing a minor child from leaving the Library.
4. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the conduct of their minor children (under 18 years of age) in the Library or on Library grounds, regardless of whether they are accompanying their children or not.
5. The accompanying adult may not leave a child under the age of 12 unattended in the Library or on Library property.
6. An accompanying adult may not leave children under the age of 12 in the temporary care of another child who is 15 years of age or younger.
7. Children attending Library programs are, for the duration of the program only, considered to be supervised by Library staff and thus are not unattended.
8. If a child who is too young to go home alone is left at closing, the Library staff will call the police if the parent or legal guardian cannot be located.
9. When a staff member observes suspected abuse or neglect on the part of a parent or responsible caregiver, the staff member is mandated by Pa. Code Chapter 42 §42.42, issued under the Child Protective Services Law, to report such suspected abuse to the Department of Public Welfare via their ChildLine @ 800-932-0313. Within 48 hours of reporting to the ChildLine, a required follow up written report, a CY-47 form provided by the Westmoreland County Children's and Youth Agency, must be submitted to them.