

Minor Monitoring Policy

The care and behavior of minor children visiting the Library is the responsibility of the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. The Library does not act *in loco parentis*.

- The Library is not responsible for the safety or well-being of any patron beyond the extent reasonably expected of a public facility.
- The Library is not responsible for preventing minor children from leaving the Library, either attended or unattended at any time.
- The Library does not provide care or supervision for unattended minor children.
- Children ages eight (8) and under must be within conversation distance of a responsible caregiver (at least 16 years of age) at all times.
- Children age nine (9) and older may use the Library on their own, provided they follow the Library's Patron Behavior Policy.
- Caregivers are responsible for the conduct of their minor children, regardless of whether they are accompanying the child or not.
- Minor children attending Library programs are not considered to be supervised by Library staff.
- If a minor child is left at closing, Library staff will offer a reasonable amount of assistance in making efforts to locate the responsible caregiver. If the responsible caregiver cannot be located, Library staff will contact the police for the child's safety. Two staff members will remain at the Library with the child until the police arrive.
- If a staff member observes suspected abuse or neglect on the part of a responsible caregiver, the staff is mandated by Pa. Code #42.42, issued under the Child Protective Services Law, to report such suspected abuse to the Department of Public Welfare.