

Unattended Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

The Sycamore Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all community members. The following policy has been set forth to provide the greatest possible degree of protection for the children and vulnerable adults of the community and to create a productive and enjoyable environment for all patrons and staff. *

Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior, and supervision of children and vulnerable adults at all times in the Library and on Library property. All visitors are expected to respect Library property and adhere to the rules outlined in the Patron Rights and Responsibilities Policy.

Children 10 years of age and younger must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver 14 years of age or older. During Library programs, parents and caregivers of children under the age of 11 must remain in the Library.

Children 11 years of age and older may use the Library unattended, provided they are able to care for themselves and behave appropriately according to the Patron Rights and Responsibilities Policy. If a parent of a child is unsure about whether their 11 year old child or older should be left at the library, parents should confirm that the child is able to recite an emergency contact's name and telephone number.

The Sycamore Public Library staff is committed to helping children with activities related to the Library. However, Library staff cannot, nor is it their responsibility to, serve as baby-sitters, teachers, or disciplinarians. Whenever advisable, the Library will notify the parent of incidents involving an unattended child. When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, the parent or responsible caregiver cannot be located, or if the Library is closing, Library staff members are authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive.

In the event a person under the age of 14 is still at the library 30 minutes after the library closes to the public, the police will be called to pick up the young person. Attempts will be made during that 30 minutes to reach parents, but in no instance will staff take young people home. Two staff members will stay with the child until the parents or police arrive.

*A vulnerable adult is functionally, mentally or physically unable to care for themselves and should not be left alone in the Library including at programs. This includes adults who need staff help outside the scope of regular library services. Staff cannot assist with tasks related to personal care.