

Trenton Free Public Library

Unattended Children Policy

The Trenton Free Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the Library, use Library collections and services, and attend Library programs. Library staff is available to assist and support children with their use of Library resources.

However, the Library is not responsible for children who are left unattended on Library premises. Unattended children are children of any age who are apparently unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible caregiver in the Library.

Parents, guardians and/or caregivers are solely responsible for the safety and behavior of their children. They are advised that children, like all Library users, are expected to comply with the Library's "General Rules and Regulations" and a child who violates those rules may be asked to leave Library premises. Parents, guardians and/or caregivers must inform themselves as to scheduled Library closing times and be aware that a Library facility sometimes may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies or safety issues. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians and/or caregivers to let their children know what they should do if they must leave the Library.

Library staff may call the police or other appropriate City agency if a child is left unattended when a Library facility closes or if a child otherwise appears to be at risk. Library staff will determine a child to be "at risk" in these or similar situations:

- A child is alone and frightened or crying in the library
- A child is alone and doing something dangerous, or another person in the library seems to be a danger to the child
- A child is alone and is not following library rules
- No caregiver comes to pick a child up at closing time
- Any child age seven (7) or under left alone in the library. (Children must be twelve (12) or older to 'supervise' a child seven (7) or under)

Approved by the Trenton Free Public Library Board of Trustees 3/2019