



## **UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY**

*Adopted January 9, 2020; Updated May 9, 2024*

The Wilberg Memorial Public Library will provide its services and facilities to visitors of all ages, including children provided they abide by the expectations observed in the policies instituted by the Library Board of Trustees.

The safety and well-being of children left alone in the Library is a serious matter for Library employees. However, Library staff cannot be accountable for children who are left unattended or who are displaying inappropriate behavior. Responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the Library rests with the parent or caregiver and not with Library employees.

### **GUIDELINES**

- Children 7 and under must have a parent/caregiver in the immediate vicinity. Children under the age of 10 but over the age of 7 must be accompanied by an adult present within the Library/Village Administration building.
- If a child under age 7 is found to be unattended or is involved in inappropriate or disruptive behavior, Library employees will try to find the parent/caregiver and explain the Library's policy. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found, or if the child is found unattended or engaged in disruptive behavior again, appropriate measures will be taken in order to ensure the safety of the child and other Library patrons. These measures may include contacting the police.
- Children older than 10 are welcome to use the Library appropriately on their own. Their parents, however, are still responsible for the actions of their children. Children of this age range who exhibit inappropriate or disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the Library.
- Library staff is not an appropriate substitute for childcare and will not monitor children in the absence of parental supervision.
- If the library is closing at the regularly scheduled time or in the event of an emergency, and a parent or guardian of a child cannot be located in the building staff may contact the police department to ensure the child's safety.
- All children, including teenagers, should have the name and telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.

*END OF POLICY*