

308: Unattended Children & Vulnerable Adults

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The Northbrook Public Library strives to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all community members. The library is particularly concerned for the safety of children and vulnerable adults on the library premises.

While the library is concerned for the safety of children or vulnerable adults on library grounds, the library does not act in loco parentis (in place of parents). A parent, legal guardian, teacher, custodian or caregiver is responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of children or vulnerable adults during their library visits.

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 beyond assistance with normal library services.

Children Visiting the Library

Children 10 years of age and younger must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver 12 years of age or older. These rules may apply to children over the age of 10 at staff's discretion. Older children, age 11 and older, are welcome to use the library independently, however, responsibility for minors using the library rests with the parent/guardian. Children are subject to library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor.

Children Attending Programs

When attending programs, children ages 7-10 may be left at a program; parents are not required to stay in the library but must have a parent or caregiver present when the program finishes. Children between the ages of 3-6 must have a parent remain in the building throughout the program, unless otherwise specified for the program. Children under 3 years of age must have a parent or caregiver with them in the program.

Unattended Children and Vulnerable Adults Safety

During library hours, when the safety of an unattended child or vulnerable adult is in doubt, library staff will attempt to contact the caregiver before calling 911. In the case of an immediate safety concern, staff will contact 911 immediately and then attempt to contact the caregiver. During emergency evacuations, staff will notify the Person in Charge about the presence of unattended children or vulnerable adults. The Person in Charge will coordinate with first responders.

Unattended Children & Vulnerable Adults after hours

In the event a child under the age of 15 or vulnerable adult is still at the library after the library closes to the public, the Person in Charge and one other staff member will remain and attempt to reach a caregiver. If a caregiver cannot be reached or if at any time staff are concerned for the safety of the child or vulnerable adult, they will contact 911. In no instance will staff take anyone home.