

Unattended Minors

Policy Statement

Deer Park Public Library welcomes children of all ages and encourages children and families to use its facility together. The safety of children on library property is a serious concern of the Library Board and Library staff. In the interest of safety and to provide all patrons with a facility that is pleasant and conducive to library use, Deer Park Public Library does not act in *loco parentis* and assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on Library premises.

Rules

The following regulations regarding unattended children will be enforced:

Minors under the age of 7 must have a parent/guardian/caregiver 17 years of age or older in the immediate vicinity of, and in visual contact with, the child at all times when using the library.

Minors ages 7 to 12 must have a parent/guardian/caregiver present in the library at all times. Although children in this age range may use the library freely, parents are still responsible for the actions and the well-being of their children.

Minors ages 13 to 17 may use the library without the presence of a parent/guardian/caregiver. However, they are still the legal responsibility of their parents/guardian.

Special Circumstances

Library Programs

If a minor under the age of 13 is attending a special library program that does not require a parent/guardian/caregiver in the room, the parent/ guardian/ caregiver is expected to remain in the library building and immediately join the child at the end of the program.

Tour/Field trips

Children under the age of 13 who visit the library as part of a tour or field trip must be accompanied by a sufficient number of chaperones at all times. The recommended minimum is one chaperone per six children.