

Syracuse-Turkey Creek Township Public Library Unattended Children Policy

The Syracuse-Turkey Creek Township Public Library welcomes the children of the community to use its facilities and services. Responsibility for the care and safety of those children lies with their parent, guardian, or caregiver. This policy has been implemented out of concern for the safety and security of children using the library.

The staff of the Syracuse -Turkey Creek Township Public Library cannot be held responsible for unattended children. Dropping off a child at the library does not guarantee that the child will remain at the facility, and the staff is unable to monitor arrivals and departures.

Children under the age of ten-must have a parent or responsible individual who is at least 16 years old stay with them while they are visiting the library. Children may not be left unattended in the library except during the actual time the children are participating in library programs.

The library will follow these steps in the case of an unattended child under the age of ten:

- 1.) If the child is being supervised by someone younger than 16, they will informed of the library's policy and asked to abide by it during future visits.
- 2.) If the child is alone, they will be asked for a parent/guardian's contact information. The parent will be contacted and asked to come to the library to pick up the child.
- 3.) If no parent or guardian can be reached, each library staff member has the authority to contact the Syracuse Police Department regarding an unattended or disruptive child.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN AGED TEN AND OLDER

Children aged ten and older may use the library unattended as long as their conduct is acceptable as determined by library staff and outlined in the library's patron behavior policy. If the child's conduct is unacceptable, staff will give the child three warnings for the behavior to cease. If the child does not comply, a parent or guardian will be contacted and the child will be asked to leave.

WHEN THE LIBRARY IS CLOSING

Parents need to make arrangements to pick up their child prior to the library's designated closing time. No child under the age of twelve will be left alone outside the library after closing hours. If a child under the age of twelve is not picked up by the time the library closes, the following procedure will be followed:

- 1.) A parent or guardian will be contacted.
- 2.) At least 2 staff members wait with the child inside the library building for a maximum of 15 minutes.
- 3.) If the parents are unable to be contacted or do not come to pick up the child within 15 minutes, the Syracuse Police will be called to escort the child home.

Under NO circumstance will library staff drive or walk a child home.

Regardless of age, parents and/or guardians are responsible for their children's actions while visiting the library, including any damage or vandalism to the property. If this policy is abused, the library has the option of revoking the library privileges of the patron or family, or contacting the local authorities.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on June 24, 2019