



Lee Public Library

Unattended Children Policy

The Lee Public Library strives to provide a safe, comfortable environment to serve the current informational, recreational, intellectual and cultural needs of users of all ages. All library users, regardless of age must conduct themselves lawfully, follow the library's policies and be considerate of others.

The Lee Public Library assumes no responsibility for children of any age left unattended in the library facility or on the premises of the library. This policy is established by the Board of Trustees for the safety of children and the enjoyment of all library patrons. A child is considered unattended if the child is in the library or on the premises of the library without a parent of legal guardian.

- Children under the age of 8 may not be left unattended at the library (unless participating in a drop-off library program). A child is unattended if a parent or responsible caregiver over the age of fifteen is not present with the child at all times while in the library.
- At the discretion of a responsible adult, a child age 8-18 may be left unattended for the period of time needed to select materials, complete a homework assignment, read, or attend a program. The child must know how to reach the adult in case the need should arise. Children should not be left for longer than two hours; the library does not provide child care services.
- Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of minor children at all times, even if they are not in the library with the child. Library staff does not serve in loco parentis. Every child must know how to reach their parent(s) or guardian(s) in case of an emergency, unexpected library closing, behavior issue or if another issue arises. If a child's behavior is inappropriate for the library, and they do not respond to appropriate guidance from library staff, the parent will be contacted to remove the child from the library. If the parent cannot be reached and the child's behavior is deemed dangerous or unduly disruptive, the Lee Police Department may be called.
- If a child is left at the library without a way home one half hour prior to closing time, library staff may contact the child's parent using information provided by the child, the patron database, or the telephone directory. If contacted, the parent will be told that their child must be picked up immediately. If the parent cannot be located or if a parent has not picked up the child within one half hour, the library staff may contact the Lee Police Department.
- Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the library or give a child a ride home.