

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

The North Manchester Public Library is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for library patrons of all ages. Children are welcome in our library, and we are concerned about their safety and welfare. Parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring the activities and regulating the behavior of their children while the children are in the library. For the protection of our younger patrons, the following policies have been adopted:

- Library staff are not responsible for the supervision or care of minors on library property.
- Library staff will never take a child out of the building or provide transportation for a child.
- A responsible parent or caregiver must accompany children under the age of 8 while in the library.
- School age children age 8 and over may use the library unattended as long as they comply with the Patron Code of Conduct.
- If a child under the age of 18 is not able to leave the library (i.e. emergency closing, suspended from library due to behavior, etc.) for a second location without an adult, they should not be in the library without an adult.

Library staff will attempt to locate or contact a parent or caregiver in the following scenarios:

- A child is under the age of 8 and is found unattended.
- A child who is ill, frightened, or is limited in abilities.
- A child who is vulnerable due to weather conditions, meal arrangements, or inability to contact a caregiver.
- A child whose disruptive behavior has not subsided despite verbal warnings from the library staff.

If staff is unable to locate or contact a caregiver in one of the above situations or if the child is left here after closing the following procedure may be followed:

- A child who has not been picked up within 15 minutes of closing time
- Two staff members will remain with the child in a public area and contact the North Manchester Police Department [\(260\) 982-8555](tel:260-982-8555) and/or the Wabash County Division of Family & Children [\(800\) 403-0864](tel:800-403-0864).