

# Unattended Children Policy

Pickaway County District Public Library

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Pickaway County District Public Library serves people of all ages and expects all patrons to follow the Patron Conduct Policy. In order to provide for the general safety of children, the Board of Trustees of the Pickaway County District Public Library has approved the following rules:

1. All children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by an adult or responsible caregiver who is at least 12 years of age.
2. When a child under 10 years of age appears to be lost or unattended, library staff will immediately try to locate a parent, legal guardian, or responsible caregiver in the library or by phone. Staff will stay with the child while the search is in progress. If a parent, legal guardian, or responsible caregiver cannot be located, staff will contact the police department for assistance.
3. Children aged 10 and older may use the library unattended, subject to the rules and regulations of the library. If an unattended minor is asked to leave library property due to behavior and is lacking transportation or a safe place to go, staff will attempt to contact the parents, legal guardians, or a responsible caregiver to have the child picked up. If unable to pick up the child or if staff is unable to reach someone, the police department will be contacted for assistance. ***Parents and legal guardians should realize that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for the behavior of their children.***
4. Children of any age with mental, physical or behavioral problems which render supervision necessary must be accompanied by an adult or responsible caregiver of at least 12 years of age at all times.
5. Minors who are unattended and lacking transportation at closing time will be asked for telephone numbers of people who can pick them up at the library. If unsuccessful, the police department will be contacted for assistance. Under no circumstances shall staff take a child out of the building.

The Library Board of Trustees emphasizes that the Library staff cannot take the place of parents or guardians nor act as caregiver or babysitter and cannot be responsible for problems resulting from children being left unattended.