

Unattended Child Policy

The James V. Brown Library prioritizes providing all users with a safe and welcoming environment. The Library and its staff do not act in place of caregivers (*in loco parentis*) and are not responsible for the care and supervision of children on Library premises. The Library is not responsible if unattended children leave Library property.

Children aged 11 or younger must be accompanied by a caregiver while in the Library. Caregivers are individuals aged 16 or older who are responsible for the direct care, behavior, safety, and supervision of children on Library premises, whether individuals or groups.

Library staff may offer programs and events for children aged 11 or younger that do not specifically require participation by caretakers. During such programs, an exception is made, and caretakers are not required to remain in the same room as the child(ren) in their care. Caregivers must remain in the Library building and reunite with the child after the program.

Children, like all other Library users, are required to follow the [Lycoming County Library System User Behavior Policy](#). Behavior that does not align with those expectations will be addressed by Library staff and/or authorized Security Personnel.

Library staff and/or Security Personnel may verify the age of unattended children by checking their Library card accounts or asking the child their age.

If a child aged 11 or younger is found unattended in the Library, Library staff and/or Security Personnel will accompany the child to find their caregiver. If a caregiver is not on the premises of the Library, Library staff will ask the child for a phone number for their caregiver and will contact the caregiver directly; if the child does not know their caregiver's contact information, Library staff will attempt to retrieve this information from the child's Library card account. If Library staff cannot reach a caregiver, they will contact law enforcement.

If a child aged 11 or younger is left unattended at the time the Library closes, Library staff will attempt to contact their caregiver; if contact cannot be made, staff will contact law enforcement. Two Library staff members will remain with the child until the caregiver or law enforcement arrive.

Library staff will not transport or accompany any child, regardless of age, from the Library to another location.

The Chief Executive Officer & Director and the Board of Trustees are responsible for monitoring and recommending updates to this policy. The Chief Executive Officer & Director is the final authority regarding the enforcement of this policy.

Approved by the James V. Brown Library Board of Trustees, August 15, 2024.