

Child and Vulnerable Adult Safety Policy

1. The Perry Public Library welcomes all ages and strives to provide an environment and space for all to enjoy. The Library is a public building open to all and the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults at the Library is of great importance. Vulnerable adults and young children should always be supervised by age-appropriate, responsible parties. Parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring the activities and regulating the behavior of persons in their care while they are in the Library. The Library Board and Staff respect the rights and privacy of all library patrons. Library staff will intervene only when juveniles or vulnerable adults are left unattended or issues relating to safety, disruptive behavior, or well-being occur. Library staff will follow established procedures for the protection of the involved party and to maintain an environment free from disruption in accordance with the Library Conduct Policy.
2. Unattended Children/Vulnerable Adults in the Library
 - a. An unattended child is a minor of any age whose behavior requires them to be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. A vulnerable adult is a person over the age of 18 years-old who is unable or unwilling to care for themselves.
 - b. The Library does not have staff, staff training, or State Certification to act as a childcare facility or a substitute for trained staff or family for vulnerable adults.
 - c. The Library Staff is not responsible for the care of unattended children and vulnerable adults and does not assume responsibility from the parents or caregivers for providing for the welfare of persons in their care.
 - d. Library Staff is not responsible for children or vulnerable adults interacting with or leaving the Library with persons who are not appropriate caregivers.
 - e. Library Staff is not responsible for any consequences of parents or caregivers forfeiting their responsibilities.
 - f. Library Staff may refer to the police those children or vulnerable adults who are left unattended in the Library when a parent/guardian cannot be reached or if the behavior of the minor child or vulnerable adult falls outside the acceptable behavior in the Library.
3. Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities
 - a. Parents/caregivers should always remain with persons in their care and are responsible for the care of those persons while in the Perry Public Library and surrounding premises. If the child is under the age of 6 caregivers must stay within the line of sight of the children.
 - b. Children under the age of 9 should always be accompanied while using the library. The person in charge of the child must stay with the child unless

the child is participating in a Library sponsored program. During Library-sponsored programs, the adult or responsible individual must remain in the Library building and return to supervising their child when the program ends.

- c. Parents/caregivers should encourage positive behavior by persons under their care while in the Library and surrounding premises.
- d. Parents/caregivers should cooperate with the Library staff if persons in their care are disruptive or if they interfere or endanger others or cause damage to the property.
- e. Parents or guardians with children who are mature enough (9 years and older) to be left alone at the Library are expected to set reasonable time limits for their children's visits to the Library and provide a means of transportation home from the Library by the time the Library closes.
- f. Parents, even in their absence, are legally responsible for their child's behavior.
- g. Parents are responsible for supervising their children's access to Library materials. While Staff members are available to lead young people to interesting materials selected with the children's interests and needs in mind, it will be assumed that children who visit the Library unattended are authorized to use the full range of materials available to them.

4. Staff Guidelines

- a. Staff will attempt to comfort an upset child.
- b. Staff will attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or caregiver to address concerns of lost, unattended, or scared children, vulnerable adults, or the person(s) with conduct issues.
- c. An incident report will be filled out, given to Library Director, and kept on record.
- d. Library staff may not take children or vulnerable adults out of the building, unless caregivers are within the sight of the building.
- e. Library staff are not permitted to transport children or vulnerable adults away from the Library building.
- f. Library Staff are to encourage minor children to contact parent/guardian/caregiver if it is 15 minutes to closing time.
- g. For safety reasons, appropriate law enforcement authorities will be contacted to take custody of any child or vulnerable adult left unattended in the Library exceeding 15 minutes during open hours or after closing time (5 minutes after closing time) if attempts to contact the parent, legal guardian, or custodian are unsuccessful.

