

Unattended Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Webb Shadle Public Library
Adopted: 10-18-23


The library board and staff of the Webb Shadle Public Library are concerned for the safety and care of all children and vulnerable adults who utilize the library unattended by a parent, guardian, or care giver. The staff are not responsible for supervision or childcare of the library patrons. This includes both during operating hours and after hours for patrons of any age.

It is the responsibility of the parents, guardians, and caregivers to:

- Stay at the library and engage in direct, continuous supervision (within eyesight) of children 10 years of age and younger or ensure they have a sufficiently responsible caregiver of at least 14 years of age. Children between ages 7-10 years may attend library programs without a caregiver, but the caregiver is expected to remain in the building and reunite with the child immediately following the conclusion of the program. Caregiver must also be readily available incase an issue should arise.
- Ensure that vulnerable adults receive the supervision and healthcare necessary to be safe while visiting the library.
- Cooperate with the library staff if any patron in their care is disrupting, interfering, or endangering others.
- Provide transportation for those in their care upon closing of the library.

The library board respects the rights and privacy of all library patrons. Library staff will only intervene if children are left unattended and problems of safety, disruptive behavior, or well-being of others occurs.

If a child or vulnerable adult is left unattended and the above things mentioned occur, staff will locate the person responsible for them and review the expectations for supervision at Webb Shadle Public Library. If staff cannot locate the caregiver in the building, police will be called to assume responsibility for the child or vulnerable adult. Likewise, if a child or vulnerable adult is left unattended when the library is closing, staff will contact police to assume responsibility for them. If a child or a vulnerable adult is repeatedly in the library without a caregiver, staff may forgo calling a parent or guardian and immediately contact the police.

 10-18-23