



“Our Roots are in Books”

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Unattended Children and Vulnerable Individuals Policy

The Flenniken Public Library facility is open to all, and there may be risks for children and vulnerable individuals when they are left unattended. The Library staff will adhere to the following guidelines concerning the care and behavior of children and vulnerable individuals.

- An unattended child generally is defined as a minor under the age of 10 who is not accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver age 16 or older.
- A vulnerable individual is a person of any age who is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that significantly impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for their own care, manage their own behavior without assistance, or provide contact information for a parent or guardian.

Guidelines

Unattended children and vulnerable individuals may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision while in the Library. These visitors must have a guardian or caregiver in the immediate vicinity or in visual contact at all times while in the Library. At the discretion of Library staff, children ages 6-9 may attend programs in the Children's Program Room without direct caregiver or guardian supervision provided the caregiver or guardian remains in the Children's Library.

Library staff does not act *in loco parentis* (in place of parents) for children or vulnerable individuals while in the Library facility. A parent, legal guardian or caregiver is responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of minors or vulnerable individuals during their Library visit.

Children who are aged 10 and older may use the Library unsupervised provided they are able to follow the Patron Code of Conduct and can provide contact information for a parent or guardian if this is requested by Library staff.

Library employees are not permitted to transport anyone to or from the Library facility for any reason.

Any child left unattended for any length of time may result in a call to Cumberland Township Police Department or the Pennsylvania State Police. This may result in follow-up visit to the parent or caregiver's residence by Children and Youth Services. All Library staff are considered "Mandated Reporters" by the State of Pennsylvania.