

# Warminster Township Free Library Policies

## Unattended Children Policy

Warminster Township Free Library welcomes children of all ages to use its materials and services. However, because library staff members have many duties and cannot/will not supervise children nor act as a substitute for daycare, the general responsibility for the care, safety, and behavior of children lies with parents/guardians or caregivers, both in library buildings and on library grounds. The library staff may not take responsibility for the care of any child, and the library is not responsible for any child left unattended.

## Regulations

Children of any age who exhibit disruptive, destructive, or potentially harmful behavior will be subject to the policies and procedures set forth in the library's Behavior Policy and Regulations.

1. A child aged 6 and under may never be left alone at the library, even for a short period of time. They must be accompanied and the parent/guardian/caregiver must remain in sight and conversation distance of the child at all times. A caregiver is an individual aged 13 and over who is assuming responsibility for a younger child with the permission of the child's parent(s)/guardian(s). This may include, for example, siblings, babysitters, or teachers.
2. A child 7, 8 or 9 years old need not be in the immediate presence of a parent or caregiver at the library, but the parent/guardian or caregiver of the child must be somewhere in the library at all times.
3. A child aged 10 and over may use the library unattended for an amount of time appropriate to his/her age and maturity, subject to the child complying with the BCFL's Behavior Policy and Regulations.

While these regulations are age-specific, the Library reserves the ability to modify these regulation and apply them differently to certain children on a case-by-case basis. For example, the library staff could review a situation and determine that a certain 10-year-old child cannot be left unattended.

## Consequences of Violations of this Policy

A member of the public who violates the Unattended Child Policy and Regulations will be subject to any of the following steps depending on the severity of the violation(s):

- Asked to stop the behavior;
- Receive a verbal or written warning;
- Be banned from the library for one or more days; or
- Be required by the library to resolve the matter with assistance from social/family services and/or law enforcement.

The Library Director or his/her designee will work to contact the parent/legal guardian in writing and follow up with social/family services if it is habitual.

Repeated violations with repercussions beyond expulsion from the library premises for more than one day will be handled by the Library Director or his/her designee.

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Library users may appeal any actions taken by library staff to enforce the Unattended Child Policy and Regulations by submitting a written request to the Library Director; 1046 Emma Lane; Warminster, PA 18974.