



Safe Child Policy

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children while they are in the Library, on Library grounds, or participating in Library activities. The Smithton Public Library District staff is committed to help children with activities related to the Library. However, Library staff cannot, nor is it their responsibility to serve as baby-sitters, teachers or disciplinarians. The library also cannot and does not assume responsibility for unattended children.

Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver (caregivers must be 13 or older). When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or the parent or responsible caregiver cannot be located, or if the Library is closing, Library staff is authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive. Under no circumstance will library staff drive an unattended child home.

Tweens (Children age 10-17) may use the Library unattended by an adult, subject to other Library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct and demeanor.

The Smithton Public Library District will not restrict access to library materials or services to anyone solely on the basis of age. Supervising the use of the library by children is the responsibility of parents or legal guardians, not library staff.

In the event a young person is still at the library 15 minutes after the library closes to the public, the police will be called to pick up the young person. Attempts will be made during that 15 minutes to reach parents but in no instance will staff take young people home. The following letter will be sent to the child's parents or guardians in such instances:

Unattended Children Parental Notification Letter

Dear _____,

The Smithton Public Library District has recently experienced an incident involving your child, _____, where they were on Library grounds unattended by you or a responsible caregiver. A copy of the Library's Safe Child Policy is enclosed here for your attention. We ask that you review this policy and make every effort to follow it. We do not wish to suspend Library privileges for you or your family, but the safety of children as well as the proper operation of the Library is our first responsibility. If you have any questions regarding this policy or its enforcement, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,
Board President or Library Director

Adopted by Resolution of the Board September 15, 2011