

Unattended Child Policy

Cherry Valley Memorial Library endeavors to provide a welcoming, pleasant, and safe environment for all Library users. However, parents are responsible for the well-being of their children who are visiting the Library or using the Library's services.

- Cherry Valley Memorial Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on the Library premises. The Library staff is not legally authorized to act in place of parents. Staff members are responsible for assisting all Library patrons and cannot adequately monitor unattended children or homeschooled children who have been dropped off.
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- A child under age 8 should not be at the Library without the supervision of a parent, responsible caregiver, or sibling 14 years old and above.
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- To promote the safety of children, the Library expects parents, or a responsible caregiver, to stay with children in their care in the Library. Children in the library are expected to observe the Rules of Conduct for Library Users.
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- Sudden emergencies may occur in the library and in such cases the Library assumes no responsibility for an unattended child. Parents, guardians, or caregivers should be sure their children know what to do or where to go when the library closes. A child may use the library phone to call someone if necessary.
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- Library staff will assist children who appear unattended or in distress in the Library by attempting to contact their parents or caregivers either within or outside the Library. Staff may ask a patron or volunteer to remain with the staff member and unattended child until a parent/caregiver comes. If a parent or appropriate caregiver cannot be located within 30 minutes, the Library will call law enforcement (607-547-4271) on the child's behalf.
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- Library staff will fill out an Incident Report, collecting as many details as possible, if law enforcement has been called.

Adopted May 6, 2020 by the Board of Trustees. Revised 1/2021.
policy will be reviewed every 5 years.

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