

Whitehall Public Library Policies

Title	Unattended Children
Date Approved	3/10/2010
Amended	2/9/2011, 7/13/2022
Prepared by	Paula Kelly

Purpose:

The Whitehall Public Library is dedicated to providing a warm and safe environment for all children. The Whitehall Public Library has adopted the following Unattended Children Policy in order to ensure the safety of children using the Library.

Statement of Policy:

The Library is not responsible for the safety or well-being of any patron beyond the extent reasonably expected of a public facility.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for the conduct of their minor children (under 18 years of age) in the Library, regardless of whether they are accompanying their children or not.

Children under the age of 10 should not be left unsupervised in any area of the Library or Municipal Building, including restrooms. Accompanying adults may not leave children under the age of 10 in the temporary care of another child under the age of 12.

The Library is not responsible for any unattended minor child, with the exception of certain library programs specifically deemed as drop-off programs. Children attending those programs are, for the duration of the program only, considered to be supervised by Library staff and thus are not unattended.

If a child is present at closing time and they are too young to get home safely, Library staff will call the police if a parent or legal guardian cannot be located. Two staff members shall remain with the child until either parent/guardian or police arrive.

If any Library staff member observes suspected abuse or neglect on the part of a parent or caregiver, they are mandated by 23 Pa. C.S. § 6311, issued under the Child Protective Services Law, to report such suspected abuse to the Department of Public Welfare.