

Unattended Children Policy of the Parma Public Library

The Parma Public Library welcomes and encourages children to visit the Library, use Library resources and services and attend Library programs. Staff members are available to help and support children; however, the Library is not able to provide short or long-term child care or be responsible for unattended children.

Unattended children are children of any age who are apparently unaccompanied by a parent, guardian and/or responsible caregiver. Children who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision while in the Library. The Library is not responsible for children who exit the Library unaccompanied by their caregiver.

Parents, guardians and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior and supervision of children at all times in the Library and on Library property. Children are expected to respect Library property and adhere to the rules outlined in the "Policy on Patron Behavior".

Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian and/or caregiver in circumstances such as the following:

- An unattended child is engaging in behavior that is disruptive to other Library users, staff or the normal operations of library business.
- An unattended child is involved in a situation that is potentially harmful to the health or safety of the child and/or others.
- An unattended child is left alone at the Library at closing time.

Such situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If parents, guardians, and/or caregivers cannot be reached, or are unresponsive, the Library will contact the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.