



## Youth Safety Policy

*Supercedes the Unattended Children Policy approved 4/10/2010.*

*Approved by the Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees on 02/20/2023. Proposed review date: 02/2026*

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### Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, we define the following as

- **Child/Children:** anyone under 10 years old
- **Youth:** anyone 17 years old and under
- **Caregiver:** any individual 13 years of age or older who has the authority and responsibility to care for a child by the child's parent or legal guardian.

### Content

Lawrence Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment that encourages youth to visit the Library, use our collections and services, and attend programs.

Please note the following policies:

- Lawrence Public Library requires all visitors, including all youth, to comply with our Library Behavior Policy. Youths not in compliance may be asked to leave.
- Caregivers—not the Library—are responsible for the children in their care. Library staff is available to assist and support youth with their use of Library resources.
- Children under 10 must be accompanied by their caregivers while visiting the Library.
- Children may attend programs intended for children without their caregivers present unless noted in the program description. Caregivers must stay on Library premises.
- Library staff may call appropriate city agencies if a child is left unattended or if youth cannot care for themselves or are in jeopardy.
- The Library is not responsible if youth leave the Library unattended. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and/or caregivers to let their youth know what they should do if they leave the Library, including unexpected closure due to emergencies or safety issues.

- Children's areas are designated for children and their caregivers; Teen areas are designated for grades 6—12. Adults unaccompanied by youth may be asked by Library staff to use facilities, services, and/or equipment in the adult section of the Library.