

UNATTENDED PATRON POLICY

The Plymouth Public Library strives to maintain a safe and comfortable atmosphere for all of our patrons. The intention of this policy is to prevent any issues with safety and/or noise that may occur as a result of children or other patrons being in the library without appropriate supervision.

The library staff duties cannot include babysitting or taking over any parental responsibilities for children or patrons with special needs when they visit the library.

Children younger than 11 years old or persons unable to take care of themselves may not be left unattended in the library without appropriate supervision. Caregivers must be in the vicinity and in visual contact at all times. Children may be supervised by a sibling or caregiver who is at least 15 years old. Library staff will not assume custodial responsibility for these unattended patrons. The Plymouth Public Library assumes no liability for these patrons.

Children or groups of children visiting the library from any preschool, day care, or babysitting facility must also be directly supervised at all times by caregivers to ensure safety and monitor behavior.

If a child or person unable to take care of him or herself appears to be left unattended the staff will attempt to locate the parents or legal guardians. If the parents or guardians cannot be located the police may be notified. If a child or patron is left at the library after closing time staff are authorized to call the police to pick them up. Staff will stay with the person until someone arrives. Under no circumstances will staff provide rides home for any patron.

Library staff will refer to this policy when necessary, including in response to the following situations:

- An unattended patron is found frightened or crying in the library.
- An unattended patron is perceived to be endangering themselves, or that another person in the library poses a perceived threat to the unattended patron.
- An unattended patron exhibits behavior that is specifically prohibited in the library's code of conduct.
- An unattended patron has not been met by a responsible caregiver at closing time.

Adopted August 28, 2023