

Unattended Children Policy- Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library

The Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming, exciting and safe space for people of all ages.

In order to prevent undue disruption of normal library activities, the general safety of children using the library, the following rules and regulations are policy;

1. The responsibility for safety and behavior of children in the library rests with the parent/caregiver and not with library personnel. Librarians cannot be responsible for unattended children or children demonstrating inappropriate behavior. The library does not have the right to act in loco parentis (in place of the parent).
2. Children under the age of 10 must have a parent or caregiver over the age of 13 in the immediate vicinity of the child.
3. Children between 10-12 may use the library without direct supervision of a parent/caregiver, as long as the parent/caregiver remains on the library's premises. Should the child's behavior be disruptive or otherwise violate library policies, the parent/caregiver will need to directly supervise the child.
4. Children 13 and over may use the library without adult supervision, provided that rules regarding patron behavior are followed.
5. Some programs do not require a parent/caregiver to be present for children under 10, however, the parent/caregiver must remain in the building until the conclusion of the program.
6. Children who do not have transportation at closing time will be allowed to use the phone to call for a ride. If transportation is not available within 15 minutes after closing, staff will notify the police to escort the child home. Staff are not permitted to drive children home.
7. If an unattended child is being disruptive, is habitually left unattended for long periods of time, or is deemed to be at risk of coming to harm (as in the case of a child being left unattended when the library is ready to close), an effort will be made to locate the responsible parent, guardian, or caregiver. If contact efforts fail, appropriate law enforcement or child protective authorities will be notified to take custody of the child.

*Caregiver is defined as anyone who has been put in charge of the child.

*Children are defined as anyone under the age of 18.