

Parsons Memorial Library

Safe Child Policy

The Parsons Memorial Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for people of all ages. The staff and Trustees of Parsons Memorial Library are committed to helping children and their families utilize library resources most effectively. It is not the responsibility of library staff or volunteers to provide care or supervision to children using the library. Children, as with all library users, must comply with the Library Code of Conduct.

The following guidelines will be followed concerning the care and supervision of young library users:

- **Children age 8 and younger** must have a caregiver (minimum age 14) in the immediate vicinity of and in visual contact with the child.
 - If a child in this age group is found unattended, library staff will attempt to locate the caregiver in the library and inform that person of the policy.
- **Children age 9 and older** may use the library on their own. However, parents/guardians are still responsible for the actions and the well-being of their child(ren). All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.
- **Children aged 14 and older** are treated as adult users. However, they are still legally the responsibility of their parents/guardians and should have an emergency contact available.
- **Unaccompanied Adults** may enter the Children's Room to obtain books or other materials but must leave once their selection is made. Staff may, at their discretion, ask unaccompanied adults to move to other areas of the library.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to know the library hours and be aware that sometimes the library may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies or safety issues. Children need to have a plan in place if they must leave the library. Children may use library telephones to contact parents/guardians if a change in normal schedule has taken place. Library staff may contact appropriate agencies if a child is left unattended when the library closes or if a child otherwise appears to be at risk.