

MT. LEBANON PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICY NUMBER: 23
TITLE: Unattended Children
DATE ISSUED: March 25, 2010
REPLACES: Previous Policy No. 23, July 18, 2002 and October 12, 1995

PURPOSE: To address the safety and well-being of children in the library.

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

1. The Library is not responsible for the safety or well being of any patron beyond the extent reasonably expected of a public facility.
2. The Library staff is not responsible for any unattended minor child.
3. The Library staff is not responsible for preventing a minor child from leaving the Library.
4. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the conduct of their minor children (under 18 years of age) in the Library or on Library grounds, regardless of whether they are accompanying their children or not.
5. Children attending Library programs are, for the duration of the program only, considered to be supervised by Library staff and thus are not unattended.
6. The accompanying adult is responsible for children under the age of 8 while in the Library or on Library property and may not leave a child under the age of 8 unattended in the Library.
7. An accompanying adult may not leave children under the age of 8 in the temporary care of another child who is 10 years of age or younger.
8. The Library staff will deal with a child left at closing who is too young to go home alone safely by calling the police if the parent or legal guardian cannot be located, and by having two staff members remain with that child until the police arrive. This includes children below the age of eleven or who are older but appear to need staff help.
9. When a staff member observes suspected abuse or neglect on the part of a parent or responsible caregiver, the staff is mandated by Pa. Code #42.42, issued under the Child Protective Services Law, to report such suspected abuse to the Department of Public Welfare.