

**MT. LEBANON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**POLICY NUMBER:** 23

**TITLE:** Unattended Children and Vulnerable Adults

**DATE ISSUED:** July 18, 2023

**REPLACES:** Previous Policy No. 23; July 18, 2002, October 12, 1995, and March 25, 2010

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

- For the purposes of this Policy a “minor” or “child” is defined as a person under 18 years of age.
- For the purposes of this Policy “temporary care” is defined as two hours or less.
- For the purposes of this Policy a “vulnerable adult” is defined as an individual age 18 or older who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to care for themselves.

**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.
3. The Library staff is not responsible for preventing a minor from leaving the Library.
4. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the conduct of their child in the Library or on Library grounds, regardless of whether they are accompanying their child or not.
5. The accompanying adult may not leave a child under the age of 12 years old or in the sixth grade unattended in the Library and is responsible for children under the age of 12 years old or in the sixth grade while they are in the Library or on Library property.
6. An accompanying adult may leave younger children in the temporary care of another child who is at least 12 years old or in the sixth grade.
7. Children attending Library programs are, for the duration of the program only, considered to be supervised by Library staff and thus are not unattended.
8. The Library staff will deal with a child left at closing under the age of 12 years old, or in the sixth grade; or who are older but appear to need staff help, such as vulnerable adults; 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.
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.