



UNATTENDED CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Coos Bay Public Library strives to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all community members. The Library is particularly concerned for the safety of children and vulnerable adults on the Library premises.

While the Library is concerned for the safety of children or vulnerable adults on Library grounds, the Library does not act in loco parentis (in place of parents). A parent, legal guardian, teacher, custodian or caregiver is responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of children or vulnerable adults during their Library visits.

Vulnerable adults are functionally, mentally, or physically unable to care for themselves and cannot be left alone in the Library, including at programs. This includes adults who need staff help beyond assistance with normal library services.

Children 10 years of age and younger must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver who is 12 years of age or older. Older children (age 11 and older) are welcome to use the library independently; however, responsibility for minors using the library rests with the parent/guardian. Children are subject to Library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor.

During Library hours, when the safety of an unattended child or vulnerable adult is in question, Library staff will attempt to contact the caregiver before calling authorities. In the case of an immediate safety concern, staff will contact authorities immediately and then attempt to contact the caregiver. Staff will stay with the person until another responsible party arrives.

In the event a child under the age of 15 or vulnerable adult is still at the library after the library closes to the public, the Librarian in Charge and one other staff member will wait 15 minutes and then authorities will be called to take charge of the situation. Attempts will be made during that 15 minutes to reach a caregiver or parent, but under no circumstances will staff transport anyone. If at any time staff are concerned for the safety of the child or vulnerable adult, they may contact authorities immediately.