

Policy Statement

The goal of the library is to maintain a welcoming environment that encourages families to explore library resources and share learning opportunities. The library wants adults and children of all ages to have a safe, positive experience. Unattended children may act in a manner not in compliance with the library's code of conduct thus adversely affecting other patrons' library experience and diverting staff from providing service to other patrons.

Regulations

1. For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver over the age of 12 must accompany children age seven (7) and under while they are using the library. The library is a public place and, as such, cannot be responsible for unattended children. While in the library or on library property, parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of their children.
2. Unattended child situations include but are not limited to:
 - a. A child age seven (7) and under is left unattended in the library.
 - b. An unattended child is perceived to be endangering themselves, or that another person in the library poses a perceived threat to the unattended child.
 - c. An unattended child acts in a manner not in compliance with the library's code of conduct.
 - d. An unattended child age 15 or younger has not been met by a parent or caregiver at closing time.
3. In such situations staff members will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of an unattended child. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot immediately be reached, the police will be contacted and the child will be placed in the care of the police department.
4. Continued offenses may result in restricted or suspended library privileges.
5. When a parent or caregiver reports a lost child in the library, staff will immediately respond and follow established guidelines and procedures that may include contacting the police.

Approved: February 10, 2020
Comstock Township Library Board of Trustees