



## **Unattended Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy**

(formerly Children in the Library Policy)

The Morton Grove Public Library strives to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all visitors and welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children and adults of all ages.

While the Library is especially concerned for the safety of children and vulnerable adults on Library property, the Library does not act in loco parentis (in place of parents), and Library staff are unable to provide parental-type oversight or guidance to children or vulnerable adults. Parents, legal guardians, teachers, custodians, or caregivers are responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of children and vulnerable adults during their library visits.

### **Children Under the Age of Eight (8)**

Children under the age of eight (8) may not be left unattended in the Library and must be accompanied by a caregiver. The Library requires that the caregiver be the child's parent or legal guardian or an adult or adolescent age fourteen (14) or older who has been designated by the parent or guardian to care for the child.

Caregivers accompanying children under the age of eight (8) shall remain in the same general area of the Library as the child at all times and keep the child in their line of sight. These rules apply at all times unless the child is attending a designated library program where adult presence is not required, during which time adults accompanying children under eight (8) years of age must remain in the Library and must promptly pick up their child as soon as the program is over.

### **Children Ages Eight (8) and Up**

Children ages eight (8) and up are welcome to use the Library unattended as long as they are mature enough to follow Library rules and observe proper conduct. Any child who is at the Library without supervision must be able to contact a responsible person in case of emergency or for transportation needs.

### **Children with Special Needs**

Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities which affect decision-making skills or render supervision necessary must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times. Library patrons needing any special accommodations should communicate these needs to Library staff.

### **Vulnerable Adults**

A vulnerable adult is defined as someone who reasonably appears functionally, mentally, or physically unable to care for themselves and should not be left alone in the Library, including at programs. This includes adults who need staff help beyond assistance with normal Library services. Vulnerable adults must be accompanied and directly supervised by a caregiver or other adult over the age of eighteen (18) while using the Library or attending Library events.

### **Disruptive Behavior in Children and Vulnerable Adults**

If a child or vulnerable adult is being disruptive to other patrons or violating Library rules, Library staff will first issue a verbal warning to the child or vulnerable adult and/or their

caregiver informing them that their behavior is not acceptable. Children or vulnerable adults who continue to engage in disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the Library; the parent/guardian/caregiver will be contacted, if necessary.

**Unaccompanied Minors at Closing**

Parents/caregivers are responsible for being aware of Library hours and for picking up their child(ren) or before closing. If a child under the age of sixteen (16) is not picked up within 15 minutes of the Library's closing time, the Library staff reserve the right to contact the Morton Grove Police Department for assistance. Under no circumstances will Library staff transport any child or in a personal or library vehicle to their home or to any other location.