

## PLYMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy Title: Safe Child Policy	Original Effective Date: 7/2019 Date of Last Revision: 4/2025
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The Plymouth Public Library strives to provide a welcome and safe environment conducive to lifelong learning for library users of all ages. While the Plymouth Public Library is concerned for the safety and wellbeing of library users, the Library is not equipped – and it is not the Library’s role – to provide long or short-term child care. No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children.

For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver should accompany children while they are using the Library. While in the Library, parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of children. Library staff will not supervise children.

The Library will adhere to the following guidelines concerning care and behavior in the Library:

- **Children under the age of ten (10)** may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision from a parent or caregiver who is in the visual vicinity of the child. The assigned caregiver must be responsible and have emergency contact information regarding the child.
- **Children ages ten (10) and older** may be left unattended and must be using library space, materials, and resources in a non-disruptive manner. If a child’s behavior becomes disruptive as described in the library’s patron code of conduct, the unattended child will be given the option to call caregivers for a ride home. In the event that a parent or caregiver cannot be contacted within ten (10) minutes, the Plymouth Police Department will be contacted by Library staff.
- **If a child under the age of ten (10) is found unattended**, Library staff will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver within the Library and inform him/her of the Safe Child Policy. In the event that a parent or caregiver cannot be found within the library, all attempts will be made to contact the parent or caregiver. In the event that a parent or caregiver cannot be contacted within ten (10) minutes, the Plymouth Police Department will be contacted by Library staff.

### Closing Time

It is the responsibility of parents or caregivers to make sure their children have transportation to and from the Library. When an unattended child is left at the Library at closing time without transportation, Library staff will make an attempt to contact the parents or caregivers of the child. If contact is not made, Library staff will immediately proceed to contact the Plymouth Police Department. It is the policy of the Library that staff members will not transport children.

### Access to the Children’s Area

Adults may visit the Children's area only when accompanied by children using the department or retrieving materials for research or check out.

Unaccompanied adults who are retrieving materials for research or check out may not remain in the Children's area to review the materials but instead should take them to the adult section of the library to review.

Unaccompanied adults may be asked by library staff to use the facilities, services, and equipment in the adult section of the library.

This policy reflects the library's concern for the safety of children in the library.