



## UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN POLICY

The Lemont Public Library District welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children. Library staff members are committed to the well-being and safety of children and are happy to help children use the Library. Parents, legal guardians, or caregivers are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library and are expected to prevent behavior that interferes with the library operations or disturbs library users or staff.

Children, age ten (10) or over, are allowed to utilize the Library's resources as long as needed, provided that their behavior is not disruptive. Children under the age of ten (10) must be accompanied at all times by a parent, legal guardian, or other responsible caregiver who is age fourteen (14) or older while in the Library. An exception to this will be made for library programs that allow children under 10 to attend without their parent or caregiver.

The library is a public place, and it is impossible for Library staff to guarantee a safe environment. Library facilities are not licensed or designed to provide basic childcare needs such as adult supervision, nutrition or emergency care and cannot act in loco parentis. The library is not to be used as temporary childcare for children. If it is suspected that a parent is repeatedly using the Library in this manner, they will be notified in writing.

If unsupervised children are present in the Library at closing time, the Librarian in Charge shall attempt to contact a parent or legal guardian by phone. If unsuccessful, the police will be called to take care of the child.

Library staff may notify the appropriate authorities if they have reason to suspect abuse or neglect.

The Librarian in Charge shall report to the Library Director all action taken in above incidents according to established procedure including an incident report filed for each interaction.

Reviewed and Amended: February 1, 2021; August 31, 2022

Adopted: September 13, 2022