

Unattended Minors

Policy Statement

Sterling Municipal Library welcomes children of all ages and encourages children and families to use its facility together. The safety of children on library property is a serious concern of the Library Board and Library staff. In the interest of safety and to provide all patrons with a facility that is pleasant and conducive to library use, Sterling Municipal Library does not act in *loco parentis* and assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on Library premises.

Rules

The following regulations regarding unattended children will be enforced:

Minors under the age of 7 must have a parent/guardian/caregiver 17 years of age or older in the immediate vicinity of, and in visual contact with, the child at all times when using the library.

Minors ages 7 to 12 must have a parent/guardian/caregiver present in the library at all times. Although children in this age range may use the library freely, parents are still responsible for the actions and the well-being of their children.

Minors ages 13 to 17 may use the library without the presence of a parent/guardian/caregiver. However, they are still the legal responsibility of their parents/guardian.

Special Circumstances

Library Programs

If a minor under the age of 13 is attending a special library program that does not require a parent/guardian/caregiver in the room, the parent/ guardian/ caregiver is expected to remain in the library building and immediately join the child at the end of the program.

Summer Volunteers

If a minor under the age of 13 is participating in the Library's summer volunteer program, he/she may be in the Library without a parent/guardian/caregiver for the time period during which he/she is volunteering only.

Tour/Fieldtrips

Children under the age of 13 who visit the library as part of a tour or field trip must be accompanied by a sufficient number of chaperones at all times. The recommended minimum is one chaperone per fifteen children.