

Patron Responsibility Policy—Perry Carnegie Library

Unacceptable Behavior

Perry Carnegie Library seeks to provide a safe, friendly, and welcoming environment for library patrons and staff. Understanding what is permissible within the library benefits patrons, staff, and visitors. Individuals or groups engaging in activities defined as unacceptable conduct will be subject to library use restrictions, including loss of library privileges. The nature and length of such restrictions will be decided by the Library Director (or Library Director's appointed representative) based on the circumstances.

Examples of unacceptable behavior:

- Acts such as mutilation, defacement, or theft of library property.
- Acts of violence or threats of such acts.
- Acts or actions that disrupt the peaceful use of library service by any person or group.
- Comments, acts, or actions that involve harassment based on sex, race, color, religion, national origin, or handicap, including those that create a "hostile environment".
- Bathing, changing clothes or shaving in public restrooms and/or fountains.
- Smoking and/or usage of any tobacco products (including vapor cigarettes) in the library or on library property.
- Bringing animals into the building, except service animals.
- Bringing illegal drugs or alcohol in the building.
- Entering the library while intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.
- Entering unauthorized workspaces, loading, and building equipment areas.
- Blocking of aisles, elevators, or traffic-ways that impedes access by others. This includes cables, chargers, cords and all electronics.
- Eating or drinking within the library, except in cases of medical necessity.
- Any other acts or actions not otherwise listed that would constitute criminal action, whether misdemeanors or felonies.
- Being noisy or running through the library.
- Raising the voice or yelling at library employees or other patrons.
- Speaking on cell phones for loud or extended conversations.
- Selling and soliciting for services, money or items.
- Possessing a weapon of any kind, unless authorized by law.
- Sleeping and/or misusing or rearranging furniture.
- Patrons must wear shoes and shirt, and can't wear clothing deemed offensive.

Unattended Children while library is open

Perry Carnegie Library is a community resource that is used by a broad cross-section of our community. The safety and security of all library patrons, especially children, is of paramount importance.

This policy is intended to address specific requirements for all children who use the library. A child is considered to be any patron under the age of 18.

The responsibility to supervise a child using the library rests at all times with that child’s parent, legal guardian, or caregiver (hereafter referred to as “responsible adult(s)”).

Since the age of the caregiver is not limited to those aged 18 or over, the library reserves the right to limit or prohibit childcare in the library. The determination will be based on the length of the visit, and the age and behaviors of the caregiver and those they are watching. Library staff and administration are present to assist all patrons with their information needs, assist with reader’s advisory, circulation functions and perform tasks that make for a pleasant patron experience. Library staff is not intended to replace responsible adults.

When children attend activity programs, they are directly supervised by library staff only during the scheduled time of the program and only in the room or area where the program is presented.

Library staff can only provide very limited supervision. It is recommended that children of all ages be accompanied to the library by their responsible adult.

Ages 7 and younger	Must be continually attended by a responsible adult and in a direct line of vision at all times while in the library; the responsible adult must be on the same floor of the library.
Ages 8-10	A responsible adult must accompany children between the ages of eight and ten but does not need to continually attend them so long as they are present and available in the building.
Ages 11-12	May be in the building without supervision for a limit of two hours per day.

Unaccompanied children at the library should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.

If a child is not able to leave the library on their own, then they should not be in the library without a responsible adult.

The Parents/Guardians are still responsible for the behavior of their children while they are using the library. Children are also bound by the Library Conduct Policy.

Library staff reserves the right to contact responsible adults to arrange a pick up for their children when they violate library policies.

If the responsible adult cannot be reached, or is unable or unwilling to pick up their children in a timely manner, library staff may require the children to remain seated under the supervision of a library staff member until the responsible adult arrives.

Staff will notify parents of the Library’s, “Unattended Children Policy,” when children are left unattended.

In the case of children exhibiting disruptive, noisy or destructive behavior, efforts will be made to locate a parent or caregiver. If one cannot be located, the police or another agency may be contacted by the staff.

Unattended Children during Programming

If children are 11 or older, the guidelines for Unattended Children when the library is open will apply. (See above)

Children, ages 9 and older, may attend library programming without a responsible adult in the building if they are able to leave the library on their own. They must arrive no more than 10 minutes early and leave promptly when the program is over. They must have contact information for a responsible adult.

Children, ages 7 & older, may attend programming without a responsible adult, if the responsible adult signs the child(ren) into the program and picks them up promptly when the program is over.

Unattended Children after hours

Responsible adults should be familiar with the library's hours and should not leave children unsupervised before the library opens or after it closes. They should also be aware the library's schedule may be affected by holidays, inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. Perry Carnegie Library assumes no responsibility for children on library property before or after closing time if they are not within the library building.

If children younger than 12 are in the building at the time of closing and have no means of transportation, staff will telephone the responsible adult and request immediate pick-up of the children. Two staff members will stay with the children until the situation is resolved.

If the children are not picked up within twenty (20) minutes after the responsible adult has been contacted, or the responsible adult is not accessible, library staff will contact the police department and request that the police take custody of the children.

Under no circumstances will library staff offer transportation to any library patron at closing time.

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