

CHARITON PUBLIC LIBRARY CHILD SAFETY POLICY

(Approved February 8, 2024)

(Approved November 11, 2021)
(Approved February 2, 2006)

Service to young people is a very high priority of the Chariton Public Library. The safety of children on Library premises is a serious concern of the Library staff. Staff members are available to assist children with Library materials or services. The Library, however, is a public building with staff trained to provide public Library services. The Library is not equipped—and it is not the Library’s role—to provide childcare. For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver must accompany children while they are using the Library. While in the Library, parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of their children.

Definitions:

Children: For the purposes of this policy, “Children” are defined as persons under the age of 10 years.

Responsible Person: For the purposes of this policy, a “Responsible Person” is defined as a parent, guardian or childcare provider of at least 16 years of age who accompanies a child to the Library or makes alternative arrangements for Library programming as provided in this policy.

Guidelines:

Children must be accompanied by a Responsible Person while on Library premises; provided, that unaccompanied children may attend Library programming unaccompanied by a Responsible Person if arrangements have been made for the timely drop-off and pick-up by a Responsible Person.

If a child calls attention to him/herself through violation of the Library Conduct Policy or otherwise, a Library staff member will attempt to locate the Responsible Person.

If the staff member is unable to locate a Responsible Person, the staff member will notify the police.

If the Library is closing and no Responsible Person is present, the staff member will notify the police and will remain with the child until the police arrive to take custody of the child.