

Adopted 11/2019

Safety of Minors Policy

Long Beach Public Library welcomes children to access library services, materials, and programs. Library staff is committed to help children with activities related to the Library. However, Library staff cannot, nor is it their responsibility to serve as baby-sitters, teachers, or disciplinarians. The Long Beach Public Library assumes neither responsibility nor liability for the actions, care, supervision, or safety of minors. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children while they are in the library rests with the parent or caregiver, including if the caregiver is a minor.

Children aged 8 or younger must be accompanied and directly supervised by a parent or other responsible caregiver aged 14 or older at all times while on Library property.

Children aged 9 and older are permitted to be in the library without the direct supervision of a parent or responsible caregiver subject to other Library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor.

From time to time, Long Beach Public Library schedules or provides programs that are designed and suitable for attendance by children without parental supervision. In that case, the parent or caregiver is expected to remain in proximity to the program to be available should they be needed.

Unattended children aged 8 or younger may be asked to remain at the nearest Service Desk while staff attempt to locate the caregiver. When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt or the parent or responsible caregiver cannot be located, or if the Library is closing, Library staff are authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive.

If an unattended child or children under the age of 9 are present after closing at least two staff members shall remain with the children. In the event a child under the age of 9 is still at the library 15 minutes after the library closes to the public, the police will be called to pick up the young person. Attempts will be made during that 15 minutes to reach the parents. Whenever the Librarian in Charge / Person in Charge feels that it is appropriate to follow this process with a child or children nine years old or older, they are authorized to do so. However, in no instance will a staff member, volunteer, or a security guard transport a child or children or wait alone with the child or children. There must be at least two staff members present while waiting with the child or children. An incident report must be completed by the Librarian in Charge/Person in Charge.

Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of library privileges.