

PCPL CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Due to our concern for safety of all youth in the library, the Poseyville Carnegie Public Library Board has established the following policy.

Parents and caregivers must be advised that libraries are public places. No public place can guarantee the safety of children. Since the library is a public building, situations might arise which can present risks to children. The library is not a closed environment. Even though staff members respond with reasonable care and concern, they have many duties and cannot monitor everyone who enters and leaves the building.

For safety's sake, parents should make sure that their children are sufficiently mature before allowing them to visit the library alone. The library staff does not assume responsibility for any child left unattended in the library. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving the library with persons who are not appropriate caregivers. The safety and security of the children are the responsibility of the parent or adult caregiver.

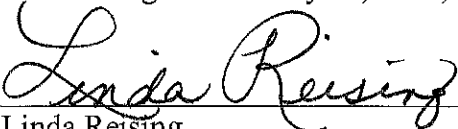
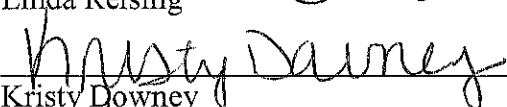
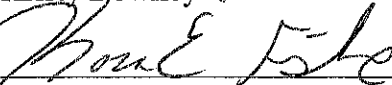
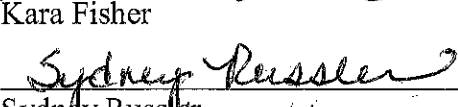
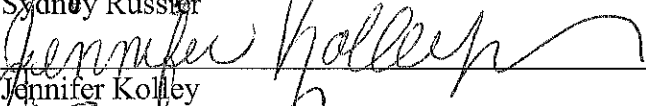

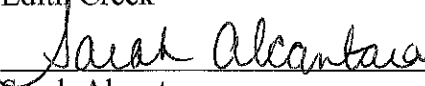
When children are left unattended at the library, problems can arise. An unattended child of any age could have a medical emergency. Children, on their own for extended periods, may become bored and engage in disruptive behavior which may interfere with library use by other patrons and staff. Staff should not be placed in the position of supervising children who are too young or immature to be left unattended, or whose behavior indicates that they have stayed at the library for too long. If an unattended child is being disruptive, requires excessive staff attention, is habitually left unattended for inappropriate periods of time, or is deemed to be at risk of coming to harm, an effort will be made to locate and contact the responsible parent, guardian, or caregiver. The parent will then be reminded of the library's Unattended Children Policy and given a copy. The library reserves the right to limit the use of the library by children and parents who, in the judgment of the library staff, are infringing upon the rights of other library users by inappropriate behavior.

In addition to the information above, the Library Board and staff ask that parents and caregivers acknowledge and follow the following guidelines:

1. Children age 6 and under must be continuously supervised (within sight) by a parent/responsible caregiver age 16 or over, unless the child is participating in a supervised PCPL activity.
2. Children ages 7 through 12 years of age must have a parent/responsible caregiver over age 16 in the building.
3. Children who are over the age of 13 may use the library independently, subject to building use policies. Parents/caregivers remain responsible for their children even when they are not present in the building.

4. Children with suspected communicable diseases will be asked to leave the PCPL premises/property. Children that are sent home early from school should refrain from visiting the library at least 24 hours after symptoms have subsided.
5. Police and/or Child Protective Services will be contacted immediately when unattended minors who are unable to get home by themselves are left on the PCPL premises/property at closing. Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home.

Duly adopted by unanimous vote of the Poseyville Carnegie Public Library Board of Trustees at their meeting held on July 14, 2020, as evidenced by signatures below.

 _____ Linda Reising	President
 _____ Kristy Downey	Vice-President
 _____ Kara Fisher	Secretary
 _____ Sydney Russler	Member
 _____ Jennifer Kolley	Member
 _____ Edith Creek	Treasurer
 _____ Sarah Alcantara	Member