

## Spring Township Library Association Child Safety Policy

The Spring Township Library and West Lawn/Wyomissing Library welcome patrons of all ages, including those under the age of 18. We are happy to provide materials and programs to engage and encourage literacy in the youth of our community.

The responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. Unlike the public school system, the library does not act *in loco parentis*. The staff and/or volunteers of the library cannot accept responsibility for the safety or supervision of minors.

When using Internet access computers, children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Children 7 and under must have a parent/guardian or an older sibling/caregiver of at least 13 years of age in attendance to supervise them at all times during their visit to the library. Children ages 8–12 may use the library unattended for an amount of time appropriate for their age and maturity as determined by the library staff. Parents are still responsible for the actions of their children and will be notified if the caregivers in attendance are unable to supervise them adequately.

If a child 7 or under is found without a parent or caregiver, the staff will attempt to:

- Locate the parent or caregiver in the Library and explain the Child Safety Policy.
- Make every effort to contact the parent or caregiver who is not in the library to come and pick up the child. Staff will express the library's concern for the child's safety and explain the Child Safety Policy.
- Encourage an unattended child to contact the parent or guardian if it is within 15 minutes of closing time. If a parent or caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive within 15 minutes of closing, the library staff will call the Spring Township Police Department to pick up the child. Staff will notify the Library Director that the police have been called.
- Remain with the child until the parent/guardian/caregiver or police arrive.

Staff members will not, under any circumstances, transport any child from the Spring Township Library or West Lawn/Wyomissing Hills Library to another location.

*Adopted at a regular and open meeting of the Board of Directors of Spring Township Library on June 11, 2009.  
Revised and approved at a regular and open meeting of the Board of Directors of Spring Township Library Association on May 12, 2011. Reviewed 09/10/2015. Revised 04/11/2024.*