

Unattended Children Policy
Commerce Township Community Library
Approved 9/13/2005

The Commerce Township Community Library seeks to provide an enriching environment for patrons of all ages. Because the Library does not act *in loco parentis*, the use of the library by minors is expected to be monitored by parents, adult guardians or other responsible adults. More specifically, children under the age of twelve are expected to have a parent, guardian or other responsible person present while the minor uses the Library. Children under the age of twelve with no responsible person present are referred to as 'unattended children'.

If the Library staff observes an unattended child, they will first verify the child's age, and determine whether a responsible person is in the building with the child. If no responsible person is present, the Library staff will notify local police. Whether the child is present during school hours and/or is behaving in a disruptive or harmful manner has no bearing on the enforcement of this policy.

When an unattended child is present in the Library at closing time, the Library staff will attempt to reach a responsible adult and wait up to fifteen minutes past closing. The police will be notified beyond this point. Under no circumstances will the Library staff provide transportation for an unattended child.

If a patron wishes to request a change to the Library's Unattended Children Policy, he or she should put this request in writing addressed to the Library Director. The Director will respond in kind with a decision and an explanation of action taken or not taken regarding the request. If the patron is not satisfied, he or she may appeal to the Library Advisory Board who will also respond to the patron with its decision. This may be appealed to the Commerce Township Board whose decision on a matter is final.

This policy, as well as any Library policy will be made available on the Library's website, or in print format upon request.