

Unattended Children and Vulnerable Individuals Policy

The Des Moines Public Library (“DMPL” or “Library”) welcomes all members of our community. We want every visitor to have a positive and safe experience while visiting any DMPL location. With that goal, the following rules and regulations shall apply at all Library facilities:

- Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for their children and any vulnerable individuals in their care at all times.
- Children under age 10 must be adequately supervised by a responsible caregiver age 12 or older who is in the immediate vicinity of the child at all times.
- Vulnerable individuals who require supervision must be accompanied by an appropriate caregiver who can meet their needs and ensure their safety while in a Library facility.
- Individuals age 10 and older who are able to care for themselves are welcome to use the Library independently. However, parents, guardians, and caregivers remain responsible for their own safety and behavior and the safety and behavior of minors for whom they are responsible.
- All patrons, including children and vulnerable individuals, are expected to abide by the DMPL Customer Behavior Policy and treat others with respect.
- Individuals who engage in disruptive or inappropriate behavior, including having loud conversations and using language to harass, intimidate, or discriminate against Library staff or patrons, may be asked to leave the library. Library staff have the authority to determine when behavior is disruptive and may request police assistance if necessary.
- If children or vulnerable individuals are left at a Library facility at closing time or in any situation that may compromise their safety, as determined by Library staff, said staff may contact the police for assistance.
- Library staff cannot and will not provide transportation, supervision, or personal care for Library patrons. Neither the Library nor Library staff assume any responsibility for children, vulnerable individuals, or other patrons of the Library facility. Library patrons use Library facilities, and allow children and individuals in their care to use Library facilities, at their own risk.

Approved by the Des Moines Public Library Board of Trustees

November 12, 2002

Approved with no changes January 17, 2017

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