

UNATTENDED/VULNERABLE CHILD POLICY

HISTORY: One of the major missions of the Tigard Library is to nurture a love of reading and exploration in children. Busy public buildings are not, however, always secure places for children to be left alone. The library is a public place and staff is not responsible for a child's safety in the absence of a parent, guardian or caregiver.

RULES:

To ensure child safety:

- Children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or caregiver age 15 or over at all times and in all areas of the Library and its property except when participating in a Library sponsored program such as Story Time.
- Children under the age of 10 years shall not be left unattended by their responsible adult guardian (ORS 163.545).
- If a child is left unattended for an extended period of time (any time over 30 minutes will be considered an extended time) and a parent, guardian or caregiver cannot be contacted, Library staff may turn the child over to the Tigard Police to ensure the child's safety.
- Failure to provide transportation for a minor left at the Library at closing time may result in Library Staff turning the child over to the Tigard Police to ensure the child's safety.
- Library staff may restrict adult use of the Children's areas in order to ensure the adequate protection and safety of the children.