

Knox Public Library

Unattended Minors Policy

While every effort is made to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for everyone, the Knox Public Library does not provide supervision for unattended minors in our library building and grounds. Children requiring supervision may not be unattended or left in the care of others who are unable or unwilling to provide adequate care.

Guidelines:

- Because the Knox Public Library is a safe and informative place, children and teens may visit, while they are truant from school. In many cases, it is difficult to determine if children are truant, are home-schooled, attend private schools that are off for the day, or may be at the Knox Public Library for other reasons. The Knox Public Library does not report children truant, except in instances where staff are concerned about repetitive truancy and, under Mandated Reporter guidelines, staff may report to authorities.
- The Knox Public Library staff will attempt to notify the parent/caregiver if:
 - The child is frightened or anxious while alone at the Knox Public Library.
 - The child's health or safety may be in danger.
 - The child's behavior disturbs other users of the Knox Public Library.
- The Knox Public Library staff will contact Child Protective Services for those children whose basic needs for food, rest, parental supervision, or attention are not being fulfilled. The Knox Public Library staff are recognized as Mandated Reporters under Pennsylvania State Code § 42.42.
- The Knox Public Library staff will notify the local police, if the Knox Public Library location is closing, at the scheduled time or in an emergency situation, and a parent or guardian of a child cannot be located in the building or by phone.
 - If a child is waiting to be picked up, staff will wait until 15 minutes after closing. If the parent or guardian has not arrived, staff will call the local police. Staff will remain with the child until the police arrive.
 - Staff may not drive children home.

Approved: 02/2022