



UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

CHILDREN

The North Shelby Library and its branch, the Mt Laurel Library, welcome patrons of all ages to use its public facilities in a manner consistent with the Patron Behavior Policy.

Children left unattended may become anxious, restless, or disruptive, and they may encounter situations or hazards that put them at risk. Their safety is a serious concern for the Library Board of Trustees and employees. Library employees cannot monitor each child's location, safety or behavior, and the Library has neither the staff nor legal authority to supervise children in the library. Library employees cannot accept caregiving responsibilities for patrons of any age.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are fully responsible for their minor children/charges at all times and are expected to comply at all times with Library policies. Any patron whose behavior is disruptive or otherwise violates the Library's Code of Conduct is subject to reporting to the Shelby County Sheriff's Department with or without warning or notice.

Children from birth through 2nd grade must be accompanied by a guardian/responsible caregiver. In this instance, "Responsible Caregiver" is an individual who is responsible for monitoring or caring for a child or vulnerable adult and who must be at least 13 years old.

The caregiver accepts full responsibility for the child's behavior and safety, including staying in the immediate vicinity of and in visual contact with the child. The only exception to this policy would be for children in grades K through 2 who are attending specified programs in the library's meeting room. The parent/responsible caregiver may wait for their child outside of the meeting room as long as they remain on the library's premises and return to pick their child up immediately after the program ends.

As long as they abide by the library's policies, children in grades 3 through 5 (typically ages 8-11), may use the library without their parent/responsible caregiver's direct supervision, but the parent/responsible caregiver must remain on the library's premises.

Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other policy or provision of policy, Library employees may report to appropriate management, law enforcement, public health or other authority any circumstance, behavior or conduct that, in their reasonable judgment, may constitute a threat, danger or risk to themselves, the public, any individual on Library property or to property.

In regards to checking out material, the Library is not responsible for the choice of library materials for children's use. The responsibility for the choice of library material for children rests with their parents or legal guardians.

TEENS

The North Shelby Library Teen Department and its programming are designed for young adults who are in or entering grades 6 through 12 (typically ages 11-18). The Library recognizes that many young adults are responsible enough to be in the library without adult supervision. As such, these teens are treated as



adult customers by the Library and are supervised minimally even during scheduled programs. Teens may come and go as they please during programs without asking permission or advising librarians of their intended whereabouts. Parents or guardians are not required to stay in the building during teen programs.

In the event that teens are engaging in behavior that is disturbing or harmful to others or the operation of the library, the problem may be discussed with them at the time. If the behavior persists, the teen may be asked to leave.

Parents and guardians should be aware of the library's closing times and make arrangements for their teen to have a ride. At closing time or in the event of an emergency (closing for weather or a power outage), staff will assist young adults in calling a parent or responsible adult to pick them up. A staff member will remain with the teen until they are picked up. The Pelham Police (non-emergency number 205-620-6550) will be asked to assume responsibility for the teen if he/she is not picked up within 30 minutes of closing.