



Pine Plains Free Library

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Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Library staff does not and cannot assume any responsibility for the care and supervision of any individual. Parents or designated guardians are solely responsible for their children while they are in the Library, at Library events, or on Library property. Any violations of this policy may result in the suspension of Library privileges.

The following guidelines apply to all individuals under the age of 18:

- All children in the Pine Plains Free Library must abide by the Patron Code of Conduct. Any patrons found in violation, regardless of age, may be asked to leave the Library.
- Children ages 9 and under must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver who is at least 14 years of age.
- Children ages 10 and up may use the Library without a parent or caregiver's direct supervision so long as they abide by the Patron Code of Conduct. They must have a contact number for a legal guardian.
- Regardless of the presence of a caregiver, guardians are legally responsible for their child's behavior and are responsible in determining if their child is mature enough to spend time in the library.

Unattended Child

If the Library discovers an unattended child under 10 years of age, the parent or caregiver will be contacted for the child to be picked up. If contact cannot be made within a reasonable amount of time, Library staff reserves the right to contact law enforcement authorities to take custody of the child. Library staff will not transport a child under any circumstances.

Library staff reserves the right to contact the guardian of unattended children ages 10 and up who are asked to leave due to violations of the Patron Code of Conduct. If contact cannot be made, law enforcement may be called.

Children's Programming

Parents are expected to directly supervise all children under the age of 10 during Library programs.

The Pine Plains Free Library may occasionally provide programs that are designed for children without direct supervision. These programs will indicate ahead of time that direct supervision is

not required, however, a guardian or caregiver is still required to be on Library property and accessible during these events.

Vulnerable Adults

A vulnerable adult is an individual over the age of 18 who is developmentally or physically challenged to a degree that may significantly impair their ability to provide for their personal needs, safety, and manage their behavior without assistance. Vulnerable adults must have a parent, guardian, or caregiver 18 years of age or older with them while they are in the Library.

Unattended vulnerable adults in the Library shall follow the same rules for an unattended child.

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