

## **Freedom Public Library UNACCOMPANIED CHILD POLICY**

The Freedom Public Library encourages families and youth to use the Library. This policy serves to remind parents that they, not the Library staff, are responsible for their children's safety and behavior at the Library.

Staff members and volunteers are available to help and support children visiting the Library; however, they are unable to provide childcare or to be responsible for unattended children.

Unattended children are children of any age who are unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible caregiver.

Sending your children to the Library signifies to them and to Library staff that:

- You believe they will act responsibly without supervision, caring for themselves and Library materials and respecting other patrons;
- You have taught them how to contact you or another responsible adult if necessary;
- You know the purpose of their visit and when they will be ready to leave;
- You have made arrangements to pick up your children.

The Library staff will attempt to contact a parent or guardian to arrange for pickup of unattended children who continue to misbehave after being spoken to by Library staff.

In an emergency, if the Library is unable to contact a parent or guardian, Library staff will contact the Freedom Police.

Should a child be left at the Library when it closes, Library staff will wait with the child until a parent, guardian, or caregiver arrives. If no one arrives after 30 minutes, Library staff may contact the Freedom Police at 539-8268 for assistance.

Approved by Freedom Public Library Board of Trustees 10/18/13, revised 5/14/21, amended and approved 9/14/23.