

## Child Safety Policy

### Overview

The Pine River Library District (PRL) provides books, audiovisual materials, story times, tours, computer programs, Internet access, reader's advisory and a variety of other services for children and families. The Library encourages frequent visits by children and their families. The children's area of the PRL is designed for the use of children, their families and caregivers. Use of the children's areas by adults who are not parents, guardians, teachers, caregivers or people researching children's literature may be restricted to ensure that children and their families have adequate access to the resources provided specifically for them.

### Purpose of the Safe Child Policy

The Pine River Library District is concerned about the safety of all of its patrons and especially the safety of its youngest patrons. When a staff member realizes that a child has been left unattended, the staff member is required to follow the guidelines outlined in the document, "Staff Procedures for Dealing with Child Safety Situations."

### The Safe-Child Policy

Library staff cannot provide childcare or assume responsibility for children's safety. Staff cannot be placed in the position of supervising unattended children. No public place, even the library, can guarantee safety of children.

Children are expected to behave in a manner conducive to maintaining a welcoming atmosphere in the building for all patrons. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child's behavior is acceptable.

Parents or caregivers must be present and responsible for the supervision of children age 11 and under. The Pine River Library District does not assume responsibility for children left unattended.

Staff may restrict adult use of Children's areas, if the adult is not with a child.

### Definitions

**Unattended child:** Any child, age 11 or younger, who is left without a parent or responsible caregiver in the building, and, any child, age 7 or younger, not accompanied (within close proximity) by a parent or responsible caregiver.

**Caregiver:** A person (age 12\* or older) entrusted with the care of children (11 or younger) within the library.

*\*Colorado Child Labor Law deems 12 years as the minimum age for employment, for example a babysitter.*

**Vulnerable minor:** An unaccompanied youth, under age 16, whose safety and well-being would be endangered if he/she were sent out of the building. Examples of

vulnerability might include the minor being too young to be on his/her own, a minor being sent out into an unsafe area, a minor being left alone outside the library facility or a minor who is still in the library at closing.

**Disruptive behavior:** Any noisy, boisterous, destructive or acting-out behavior that is inappropriate in a setting where library business is conducted. This behavior may present a physical danger to the child or others, or may serve to interfere with the legitimate library business of other patrons and staff.

Submitted to the Board of Trustees by Shelley Walchak  
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Approved by the Board of Trustees  
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