

Pine River Public Library District

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 Pine River Library District is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment for children and teens that encourages reading, learning, and creativity. Library staff members are available to assist and support children with the use of Library resources.

The Youth Services area of the PRL is designed for the use of children, parents and caregivers. Use of youth 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.

Child Safety

The Pine River Library District is concerned about the safety and welfare of all children. We recognize that it is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to oversee the behavior and well-being of their children.

The Library is a public building and although the staff will be diligent about helping to ensure the safety of our children, PRL cannot guarantee this. The District does not have the capability to provide childcare nor is childcare a role of the District.

The District is not responsible for children who are left unattended on its premises. ("Unattended child" is defined as a child aged 17 or younger who is unaccompanied by a responsible caregiver.) We require all children under 12 years old to be with a caregiver. The District will intervene when a child is deemed at risk or is not following the District's Code of Conduct.

All children, like all Library users, are expected to comply with the Library's Code of Conduct and a child who violates those rules may be asked to leave the premises.

Parents, guardians and/or caregivers must be aware of Library hours of operation and that the Library may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies, safety issues, or inclement weather. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians and/or caregivers to let their children know what they should do if they must leave the Library.

Library staff may call the police or other appropriate agency if a child is left unattended when the Library closes, if a child is not observing the District's Code of Conduct or otherwise appears to be at risk. Staff cannot transport any child from the Library to another location.

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Definitions

Unattended child: Any child, age 17 or younger, who is left without a parent or responsible caregiver in the building. Children younger than 12 must be with a 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.

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.

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees September 18, 2014

Policy Created:

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