

Unattended Children & Vulnerable Adults

a. Unattended children

Keller Public Library strives to provide a warm, welcoming, and safe environment for community members of all ages. We encourage children to play and explore the resources in the building while under the safe care of a responsible adult. Parents are responsible for their children's behavior and safety while they are in the library.

"Unattended children" are children under nine years old whose caregiver is not in the Library with them or whose caregiver is not actively supervising them. Unattended children will be asked to help library staff locate their caregiver. Library staff will make every reasonable effort to identify the unattended child and locate the caregiver. If the caregiver cannot be located, staff will make every reasonable effort to contact a caregiver by phone. If the caregiver cannot be phoned, staff will notify the police.

Children over age nine may use the Library on their own; however library staff is not responsible for their safety. Children are subject to the same rules and consequences as other library users, including being asked to leave the Library if their behavior disrupts library service. If it is unsafe for a child to leave the building without an adult, the child should not be in the Library unattended.

If an unattended child is at the library at closing time, library staff will make every reasonable effort to assist a child in contacting a caregiver while waiting in the lobby area for up to twenty minutes after closing. If no responsible caregiver can be contacted, staff will notify the police. A library staff member will remain with the child until a caregiver or the police arrives.

The library is a designated Safe Place Location in collaboration with ACH Child and Family Services and can provide assistance to youth in crisis in accordance with our Memorandum of Understanding with the ACH organization.

b. Vulnerable Adults

Keller Public Library strives to provide a warm, welcoming, and safe environment for community members of all abilities. "Vulnerable Adults" are individuals over the age of 18 who are mentally or physically challenged to a degree that significantly impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for their own care or manage their own behavior without assistance. Vulnerable adults who can understand and follow library policies and care for themselves are welcomed in the library unattended.

Vulnerable adults who are not able to understand or follow library policies or who cannot care for themselves must visit the library under the safe care of a responsible adult. Caregivers are responsible for their vulnerable adult's behavior and safety while they are in the Library.

Library staff will attempt to contact a caregiver when a vulnerable adult's:

- Health or safety is in doubt
- Behavior disrupts library service
- Actions violate library policy
- Caregiver is not present at closing time.

If a vulnerable adult is left alone at closing time, library staff will make every reasonable effort to assist them in contacting a caregiver while waiting in the lobby area for up to twenty minutes after closing. If no responsible caregiver can be contacted, staff will notify the police. Library staff will remain with the vulnerable adult until the caregiver or police arrives.