

YOUTH IN THE LIBRARY POLICY

I. Purpose.

Youth are welcome and encouraged to use the Bath Township Public Library at all times. Libraries offer a range of services which support the information, literacy, and education needs of youth. Libraries DO NOT provide childcare. Libraries are not a substitute for childcare agencies and libraries do not have the facilities, staff, or appropriate licenses to attend to youths who are left unaccompanied. The Library Board adopts the following Youth in the Library Policy ("Policy") with regard to youth at the Library.

II. Definitions

- A. "Youth" means an individual under the age of 18.
- B. "Child" means a Youth from 0-10 years of age.
- C. "Young Adult" means a Youth from 11-17 years of age.
- D. "Responsible Caregiver" is an individual who is responsible for monitoring or caring for a Youth and who must be 15 years of age and remain in visual contact of said child.

III. Rules and Regulations.

- A. All patrons, including youths, are expected to comply with the Library's policies, including its Patron Behavior Policy. Parents, guardians and responsible caregivers should review and be fully aware of all Library policies governing youth.
- B. Parents, guardians, and responsible caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of youths regardless of age while utilizing the Library or on Library premises.
- C. Library Staff will not be expected to supervise or monitor the behavior of Youths.
- D. A parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver must remain on library premises and be responsible for their child(ren) at all times, including during programs.
- E. Youths who, due to a developmental disability, mental illness, or physical disability, require supervision or personal care shall be attended by a parent guardian, or responsible caregiver at all times.
- F. Library Staff will not monitor whether Youths leave Library premises. Staff will not be responsible if unaccompanied Youths leave the Library premises alone or with other persons. This includes unaccompanied Young Adults who may be asked to leave the Library if the Young Adult is in violation of Library policy.
- G. Unaccompanied Young Adults shall be picked up at least ten (10) minutes before closing time. Parents, guardians, and responsible caregivers need to be aware of when the Library closes.

H. Unaccompanied Young Adults are expected to know their own emergency contact information if they are allowed to be unaccompanied at the library.

I. Library staff will attempt to notify a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver in the case of illness, injury, or other emergency. Library staff will also attempt to notify a parent or guardian if a child enters the Library unaccompanied. If one cannot be reached within 15 minutes the appropriate emergency services will be contacted.

IV. Violations/Enforcement

A. Library staff will attempt to notify a parent, guardian, or Responsible caregiver when:

1. The health or safety of an unaccompanied Young Adult is in doubt;
2. The behavior of an unaccompanied Young Adult violates Library policy.

B. Any youth violating this Policy shall be subject to the same enforcement and violations provisions contained in the Violations Policy.

AMENDED: November 6, 2025