



# Edmeston Free Library

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## Unattended Child Policy

The Edmeston Free Library is dedicated to providing services and resources to patrons of all ages. We encourage children and families to use the library and, while doing so, emphasize parent/ caregiver responsibility for the safety of and well-being of their children.

Children, like all library patrons, are expected to behave appropriately and in adherence to the library's **Patron Code of Conduct**. The supervision of child patrons lies with their parents/caregivers, not the library staff. The library is not responsible for any consequences of parents forfeiting their responsibility for their children.

Children up to age 8 may not use the library unaccompanied by a parent or caregiver. The assigned parent/caregiver must be at least 13 years old and must carry emergency contact information for the child and themselves.

Children ages 8-12 may use the library unattended by an adult caregiver. If, however, they are found in violation of the Patron Code of Conduct, or exhibit other inappropriate behavior, and are asked to leave the premises, children in this age group must do so accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Children in this age group who are unable to leave the library in the company of an adult should not be in the library and may have their access restricted in the future.

Young people ages 13-17, while still legally the responsibility of their parents or guardians, are treated as adults and may use the premises unaccompanied by a responsible adult as long as all behaviors are appropriate and according to the Code of Conduct.

All children under age 18 must carry emergency contact information on their person while using the library.

### Children Unattended at Closing Time

Parents/Guardians whose children use the library are expected to know library hours of operation. They should remember the library may close due to emergency weather, systems loss (electricity, heat, etc) or other reasons out of the control of library staff. Library staff may not accompany children outside the library or give them a ride home. Should there be children left unattended in the library at closing, library personnel will proceed as follows:

1. Have the child make contact with their parent/guardian for a ride home.
2. If no ride arrives after 30 minutes, staff will contact the Police and wait with the child for their arrival.
3. Written record will be made of the child's address, phone number and parental contact information.
4. Parents once located, will be given a copy of the Unattended Child Policy.

Violation of the Unattended Child Policy may result in the restriction or suspension of library privileges for the family.