



Community Library of the Shenango Valley

11 N. Sharpsville Ave.
Sharon, PA 16146
(724) 981-4360
Fax (724) 981-5208

Unattended Children Policy

The Community Library of the Shenango Valley is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for customers of all ages. Sharing this environment with other people requires that everyone follow The **Library Code of Conduct** established by the Library Board of Trustees and posted in the library building and on the library's website.

The Community Library of the Shenango Valley wants children to use its facilities and services. Children in the library should always be accompanied by an adult parent/guardian or assigned adult caregiver. When children are left alone they may become frightened or anxious. If they wander through the building they may encounter hazards such as stairs, doors, furniture or electrical equipment. They may also become bored and restless and could disturb the enjoyment and work of others. The safety of children left alone in a library building is a serious concern of the library staff. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests with the parent/caregiver and not with the library personnel. Library employees cannot be responsible for children who are unattended or demonstrating inappropriate behavior. The following guidelines will be followed concerning the care and behavior of young library users:

Children under the age of 12 must have an adult parent/caregiver in the immediate vicinity of and in visual contact with the child. If a child under the age of 12 is found unattended in the library, the library staff will attempt to locate the parent/caregiver in the library and inform him/her of the rules, but if a parent/caregiver cannot be found in the library, or the child is found unattended again and without a parent/caregiver, the police will be called for assistance. An exception would be children attending a library program without a parent/caregiver in the room. However, the parent/caregiver is expected to remain in the library building and immediately join the child at the end of the program. If a child in this age group is found unattended, library staff will attempt to locate the parent/caregiver in the library and inform him/her of the rules. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found, or if the child is found unattended again, the police will be called for assistance.

Children age 12 and older may use the library on their own except during regular school hours. However, parents are still responsible for the actions and well-being of their child(ren). In accordance with CLSV's Code of Conduct, customers, including children, using inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the library. **If a child 12 and older is not able to leave the library on his/her own then he/she should not be in the library without an adult parent/caregiver.** All unaccompanied children at the library should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.

Approved by the CLSV Library Board on 12/30/2015