



**Neill Public Library**

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## Safety of Youth in the Library

Neill Public Library encourages parents, guardians, and caregivers to bring youth (individuals under the age of 18) to the library. Library staff have been trained to help youth find library materials and to provide a variety of library services for youth.

The safety of youth and the rights of other patrons require that parents, guardians, and caregivers be responsible for the safety, behavior, and access to library materials and electronic resources for their youth (regardless of whether they accompany them to the library.)

The Library is not equipped to intensively supervise youth for short or long periods of time and does not stand in loco parentis. The Neill Public Library Board of Trustees has therefore established the following policy for the library:

- Youth under the age of seven and vulnerable youth may not be left unattended in any area of the library. If it is unsafe for any youth to be without an adult, they may not be in the library unattended.
- All minor youth are expected to behave in accordance with the library's Conduct Policy. Adults with disruptive youth will be asked to remove them from the library.
- Unattended youth who are disruptive may be asked to leave the library. If the youth cannot safely leave the library on their own, they may contact a parent/guardian/caregiver using a library phone if necessary. If no parent/guardian/caregiver can be contacted, library staff will notify law enforcement as needed.
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers should be aware of Library opening and closing times, and are responsible for arranging transportation for youth who have been left unattended at the library. Youth who have not been picked up at closing time may call a parent using a library phone if necessary. Any youth who has not been picked up within five minutes after closing will be left in the care of law enforcement.
- Under no circumstances will library staff transport or escort youth off of library property, or in any vehicle, whether owned by the City or the staff member.

Approved by Neill Public Library Board of Trustees February 11, 2005

Revised October 18, 2023