

PERTH AMBOY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

196 JEFFERSON STREET PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861 • 732-826-2600 • LIBRARY2@PERTHAMBOYNJ.ORG

WWW.PERTHAMBOYPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

Unattended Children

The Perth Amboy Free Public Library welcomes visitors of all ages to use its facilities, resources and services and attend library programs. Staff members are available to help and support children; however, it is not the function or purpose of the Library staff to provide short- or long-term child care or be responsible for unattended children.

The following guidelines will be followed concerning the care and behavior of young library users:

- **No child under the age of 12 may be left alone in the Library or on the Library premises for any reason.** Children under the age of 12 must be supervised by a caregiver aged 12 or older. **All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.**
- **Children 12 and older may be in the library without an adult.** Children behaving inappropriately may be asked to leave the Library in accordance with the Standards of Acceptable Behavior. In the event that such child does not comply, the Police Department will be contacted for assistance. In the event, the library assumes no further responsibility for the child.
- If a child requires close supervision or constant individual attention, regardless of age, the child should not use the library on their own.
- If a child aged 12 and older is not able to leave the library without an adult, he/she should not be in the library alone. This is a particular concern in inclement weather and after dark.
- **Teenagers are treated as adult users, however, they are still legally the responsibility of their parents and should have an emergency contact available.**
- **Parents/caregivers should be aware of library hours and make arrangements for their children.** Staff members are not permitted to escort a child home. In the event a child is not picked up by a parent/caregiver when the Library closes, two library staff members will remain with the child inside the building for up to 15 minutes. If the parent or caregiver cannot be reached, the Perth Amboy Police Department will be called to escort the child home or keep the child until the parents/caregivers can be reached. Under no circumstance will the library assume custodial responsibility for any child left unattended.
- **Parents/caregivers, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior of their children using the library and their respective parents/caregivers may be held liable for any damage they cause.**
- In accordance with the **New Jersey Truancy Laws**, NJ Statutes Titles 18A: 38-25. 18A: 38-26. No child is allowed in the Library while school is in session. It is the responsibility of the parent/s or guardian/s to notify the Library Staff with evidence that a child is out of school. Any unaccompanied student age 6-18 years old found in the Library while school is in session, between the hours of 9am to 2:45pm or as scheduled is subject to be picked up by the Perth Amboy Police Department unless he/she is accompanied by a parent/guardian according to the Perth Amboy Free Public Library and NJ Statutes Title 18A: 38-31. In the instance that a student is over the age of 16 and enrolled in public school or equivalent education institution the above rule shall apply.

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As a public agency, the Library serves in the best interest of the welfare of all children. The Library is required by law to notify the Division of Child Protective Services in the event of suspected abuse or neglect of any child. This includes but is not limited to: mistreatment of a child, lack of proper supervision of a child or repeatedly leaving a child unattended at the Library.