



LIBRARY POLICY

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

POLICY: Tualatin Public Library welcomes youth of all ages to use its facilities and services. Tualatin Public Library is a public building, open to everyone, and a child's safety cannot be guaranteed. Children may encounter hazards such as doors, furniture, electrical equipment, and other library patrons.

Responsibility for the behavior and well-being of children using the Library rests with the parent, guardian, or designated caregiver. Library staff members cannot supervise children in the Library.

RULES:

Children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or designated responsible caregiver at all times while in the Library. This means the caregiver must supervise the child during the entire Library visit by keeping them within their line of sight. Exceptions may be made for some Library events, with parental consent.

Oregon Revised Statutes 163.545: Child neglect in the second degree. (1) A person having custody or control of a child under 10 years of age commits the crime of child neglect in the second degree if, with criminal negligence, the person leaves the child unattended in or at any place for such period of time as may be likely to endanger the health or welfare of such child. (2) Child neglect in the second degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

Tualatin Public Library is not responsible for a minor's selection of library materials, attendance at programs, or use of the Internet or other services. Parents, guardians, or responsible caregivers are expected to accompany their minor children in the use of library materials and services, including computer use. Additional guidelines can be found in the Library's Children's Room and Teen Room Use Policy, Makerspace Use Policy, Meeting Room Use Policy, and Technology Use Policy.

Unattended Children

Library staff will take the actions outlined below in situations such as:

- A child is observed to be unattended for more than 5 minutes.
- An unattended child appears to be ill, upset, or hungry.
- An unattended child is doing something unsafe, or another person in the Library poses a perceived threat to the child.
- A child or minor is not picked up at closing time.

Library staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian. If staff cannot contact the parent or guardian, they may place the child in the care of Tualatin Police.

Code Adam

Tualatin Public Library uses Code Adam when a child is reported missing.

When a child is reported missing, all Library staff will stop work to assist in the search. Library programs and the staff leading them can continue but may be disrupted in the course of the search.

Library and/or City staff will search the building and block all exits. No one is allowed to leave or enter the building while a Code Adam is in progress.

If the child is not found within 3 minutes of the first announcement, Library staff will call 911. Tualatin Police Department will take charge of the situation and instruct Library staff in next steps.

APPROVAL: This policy is approved by Tualatin Library Advisory Committee September 2015; updated March 2020; updated August 2025.