

11 CHILD SAFETY POLICY

11.1 UNATTENDED CHILDREN

The Gladstone Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the library, attend programs, and use the library collections and computers. However, the Gladstone Public Library does not accept responsibility for a child's safety and supervision.

Parents and legal guardians must adequately supervise children less than 10 years of age. Adequate supervision is defined as having a parent/guardian or assigned caregiver in the immediate vicinity (within sight and conversational distance). Children 10 and older may use the library unattended provided they maintain proper behavior. Staff is authorized to contact appropriate authorities if a situation appears to be dangerous or neglectful to a child, or if a parent/guardian or caregiver cannot be located or contacted within 30 minutes or if a child is suspected to be truant. The library is not responsible for children who are left unattended as of library closing time. Failure to comply with this policy may result in suspension of library privileges

11.2 CHILD/VULNERABLE ADULT SAFETY

Library employees and volunteers who work with youth (under age 18) and vulnerable adults should observe the two person rule or open door policy. The two person rule requires that employees make every reasonable effort to avoid situations where an employed or volunteer worker is alone with a child or youth in a closed room with no outside visual contact. The open door policy requires any solid panel door be open at all times an employee or volunteer worker is alone with a child or youth. Staff members are prohibited from transporting a minor child, taking away a minor child from the library building, or remaining in a building alone with a minor child.