

Purpose: The Board holds that parents or caregivers are responsible for the safety and supervision of their children or vulnerable persons in the Library or on surrounding premises. Staff members at the Medicine Hat Public Library are unable to supervise children or vulnerable persons to ensure public safety. Staff members are occupied with services and programs and cannot be aware of all activity taking place at all times.

1. Definitions:
 - 1.1. Child: means any person twelve (12) years of age and under.
 - 1.2. Parent: means custodial parent or legal guardian.
 - 1.3. Caregiver: means any person thirteen (13) years of age or older who is not a parent or legal guardian, and is in temporary charge of a child or vulnerable person.
 - 1.4. Vulnerable person: means any person thirteen (13) years of age or older who would normally be under the care or supervision of a caregiver.
2. Children or vulnerable persons should be within sight of a parent or caregiver at all times if:
 - 2.1. They are six (6) years of age or younger or,
 - 2.2. The person's usual behaviour patterns require close supervision.
3. Children or vulnerable persons who are in the library building without a parent or caregiver may not be left for an extended period of time. If the library staff discover that a child or vulnerable person has been dropped off for an extended period of time they will:
 - 3.1. Contact the parent or caregiver by telephone, inform the parent/caregiver of the library policy and request arrangements to have the person picked up as soon as possible or for parental/caregiver supervision in the library.
 - 3.2. Contact City of Medicine Hat Police Services if the parent or caregiver cannot be reached.
4. Under no circumstances will library staff transport an unattended child or vulnerable person.