



## GLENCOE PUBLIC LIBRARY

### USE OF THE LIBRARY BY CHILDREN POLICY

#### General

Patrons of every age are welcome at the Glencoe Public Library (Library).

Parents and/or legal guardians are solely responsible for their minor children while they are in the Library.

A “responsible caregiver” is a parent, guardian, or other caregiver aged 14 or over with the ability to ensure a child’s safety and adherence to the Library’s rules and policies.

In order to use the Library without supervision and accompaniment, patrons of any age must follow the guidelines below as well as demonstrate the maturity and skills necessary to follow Library rules and policies. Staff is authorized to contact Public Safety any time the safety of a minor child is in doubt.

#### Guidelines by Age

Children ages 0-4	Children under the age of 5 must be within visual distance of a responsible caregiver.
Children ages 5-7	Children at least 5 but under 8 years of age must be supervised by a responsible caregiver and cannot be left unattended in the building.
Children ages 8-13	Children ages 8-13 may visit the Library without accompaniment but must demonstrate the maturity and skills to follow library rules and policies.
Children ages 14-17	Children aged 14 to 17 may visit the Library without accompaniment but must demonstrate the maturity and skills to follow library rules and policies.  While those in this age group may serve in the capacity of a responsible caregiver, they are still legally the responsibility of their parent or guardian.

Library users of any age who are unable to follow Library rules and/or policies may be asked to leave the building.

#### Library programs

A responsible caregiver must remain in the Library while a child under the age of 8 in their care attends a library-sponsored program. The Library may require a responsible caregiver to accompany and supervise children during designated programs.

**Unattended children 7 years of age or younger**

If it is determined that a child 7 years of age or younger is in the library unaccompanied by a responsible caregiver, library staff will immediately try to locate the responsible caregiver. If the responsible caregiver cannot be located within 15 minutes, Glencoe Public Safety will be contacted to assist.

**Unattended children at closing**

The Library reserves the right to notify Glencoe Public Safety if an unattended child under the age of 14 is on library premises for more than 15 minutes after the Library's regular closing time.

Adopted	November 16, 2016
Reviewed	
Revised	July 17, 2019; September 21, 2022, September 17, 2025