

## Unattended Children and Vulnerable Adults: Public Posting [E3A]

Richton Park Public Library strives to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all community members. The Library is particularly concerned for the safety of children and vulnerable adults on the Library premises.

While the Library is concerned for the safety of children or vulnerable adults on Library grounds, the Library does not act in loco parentis (in place of parents). A parent, legal guardian, teacher, custodian or caregiver is responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of children or vulnerable adults during their Library visits.

A vulnerable adult is functionally, mentally or physically unable to care for themselves and should not be left alone in the Library including at programs. This includes adults who need staff help beyond assistance with normal library services.

Children nine (9) years of age and younger must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible caregiver thirteen (13) years of age or older. These rules may apply to children over the age of 10 at staff's discretion. Older children, (age 10 and older) are welcome to use the library independently, however, responsibility for minors using the library rests with the parent/guardian. Children are subject to Library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor.

When attending programs, children ages 7-10 may be left at a program; parents are not required to stay in the library, but must have a parent or caregiver present when the program finishes. Children between the ages of 3-6 must have a parent remain in the building throughout the program, unless otherwise specified for the program. Children under 3 years of age must have a parent or caregiver with them in the program.

During Library hours, when the safety of an unattended child or vulnerable adult is in doubt, Library staff will attempt to contact the caregiver before calling 911. In the case of an immediate safety concern, staff will contact 911 immediately and then attempt to contact the caregiver. Staff will stay the person until help arrives.

### **Unattended Children after hours**

In the event a child under the age of fifteen (15) or vulnerable adult is still at the library after the library closes to the public, the Librarian in Charge and one other staff member will wait 15-minutes and then 911 will be called to take charge of the situation. Attempts will be made during that 15-minutes to reach a caregiver or parent, but in no instance will staff take anyone home. If at any time staff are concerned for the safety of the child or vulnerable adult, they may contact 911 immediately.