Pike Library Association

Safe Child

Pike Library Association is dedicated to providing a warm, welcoming, exciting and safe

environment for people of all ages. We are a valuable community resource of materials,

information, services and programs. As a public institution, our doors are open to all, regardless

of age, origin, race, gender or back ground. It is for the safety of each child that Pike Library Association

has adopted this Safe Child Policy.

Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children while their children are in the Library.

Even when parents are not present, they are legally responsible for their children. In this policy,

the word PARENT means: mother, father, birth/biological parent], adoptive parent, foster-parent,

step-parent guardian. CAREGIVER refers to a family member or paid helper or who regularly

looks after a child.

The staff is committed to helping children with activities related to the Library. However,

Library staff will not be responsible for children who have been left without adult supervision.

Children under the age of 10 must be attended to at all times by a responsible parent/caregiver

who is at least 12 years of age.

Self-supervised youth, aged 10 and up are welcome to use the Library as long as they observe

the general rules of conduct. For safety‘s sake, parents should make sure that their children are

sufficiently mature before allowing them to visit the Library by themselves.

INTERNET AND COMPUTERS

The Library provides internet workstations. Parents are responsible for use of all Library resources, including the Internet, by their children.

Internet computer users must be 12 years old or older. Children under 12 years may use

internet computers when parent or caregiver is on the premises.

\* See Acceptable Use of Computers Policy

Pike Library Association

Board of Trustees Adopted November 2, 2022

UNACCEPTABLECHILD BEHAVIOR

If a child‘s behavior is unacceptable\*, the Staff may ask them to leave the Library and, if

necessary, the police may be contacted. At the time of the incident, the Director will meet with

the parent/care giver if possible. If not a letter and/or phone call will be sent/made to the

parent. If further consequences are needed, they will be at the discretion of the Director.

\* See Rules of Conduct

UNACCEPTABLE ADULT BEHAVIOR

Parents/caregivers who habitually leave their children unattended during Library hours or fail to

retrieve their children at closing time will answer to the Director for the remedy.

Adult patrons who are not engaged in library activities that require materials from the children‘s

area shall be asked to relocate to other areas of the library. The staff reserves the right to seek

the intervention of appropriate law enforcement or social services agencies, as required by

individual circumstances.

AT CLOSING TIME

If the Library is near closing time, the staff will remind children in the library of the

closing time. The posted closing time will be strictly observed. If there are children without

a parent/caregiver, the staff will make every effort to locate him or her to pick up the child. If no

parent/caregiver responds, the police department will be called and the situation transferred to

that agency.

If the Library must close due to unexpected reasons out of the control of staff such as a power outage, loss of heat, inclement weather, etc. children should know what to do to reach their parent/ caregiver.

At no time shall a child be left alone in the Library or on Library property. A detailed Incident Report will be filed with the Director should a problem arise. If a lateness pattern is observed, suspension of Library privileges may be imposed.

Violations of this Safe Child Policy are grounds for suspension of Library privileges.

Safe Child Policy is a compilation of information from: Kent Public Library in 2008; Burke

County PLS in 2003; Waterville PLS; Seymour Library in 2004; East Rochester, North Castle; All

Erie County & Buffalo; Livonia; Geneva; White Plains.

Pike Library Association Board of Trustees Adopted November 2, 2022