

Section 650 SAFE CHILD POLICY

The Crete Public Library endeavors to provide a welcoming, pleasant, and safe environment for all library users. The library encourages children of all ages to visit with their parents to take advantage of the resources available for them. We hope that as many children as possible will use it as a doorway to lifelong learning and reading. The library, however, is a public building. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. Therefore, the following policy will be enforced:

- Parents or guardians are responsible for the health, safety, behavior, and well-being of their children, whether the parent or guardian is present or not.
- The library is also a busy workplace with staff engaged in many library service duties. They do not serve *in loco parentis*, in place of the parents, for children in the library or on library premises. Staff assume neither responsibility nor liability for the actions, safety, care, or supervision of children at any age.
- Children, age eight (8) and under, must be accompanied by, attended to, and within visual range of a parent or other responsible adult, at least fifteen (15) years or older, at all times while on library property.
- Parents or guardians must remain in the building while their children are in library programs, if they are age eight (8) and under.
- Students who visit the library with tutors are to be supervised by the tutor during the student's entire library visit, if the student is otherwise unattended. The library does not serve as an intermediary between students and tutors.
- Children, age nine (9) and over, are free to utilize the library's resources, as needed, without direct parental supervision, provided they demonstrate purposeful intent to use library resources.
- Transportation for children at the library, regardless of age, must be arranged prior to the library's closing time. Parents or guardians should be aware of the library's opening and closing times. The building is promptly locked at closing time. Under no circumstances will library staff offer to drive a child home or to another destination.

All patrons are expected to adhere to the library's Patron Behavior Policy. The library encourages parents and guardians to consider the safety of their minor children, as well as the well-being and needs of other library patrons, and to talk with their minor children about appropriate behavior in the library.

CPLD 05/1999
Rev. 06/2000
Rev. 07/2017