

Minors/Unattended Children Policies

The Crete Public Library adheres to the 2016 Nebraska Library Commission's "Nebraska Intellectual Freedom" policies. Regarding Intellectual Freedom for Minors, "Young people have First Amendment rights. Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents or legal guardians—and only parents or legal guardians—have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access to library resources for their children—and only their children. Censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech, whether for the supposed protection of children, or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment. Librarians cannot restrict access to information for minors or censor material to protect children from controversial viewpoints."

The Crete Public Library welcomes library use by children. The Library is a public building with staff trained to provide public library services. Staff members are available to assist children with accessing library materials and services.

For the safety and protection of youth and for the benefit of all, the Crete Public Library has developed the following rules:

- Children under age 7 should always be directly supervised someone aged 12 or older. Direct supervision implies that the child is within the sight or sound range of the responsible adult.
- In general, children aged 7-11 must be accompanied by someone aged 12 or older. Accompanied implies that the responsible adult remains in the library and is responsible for the actions of the 7-11-year-old child. Exceptions can be made for children 7 and older who are visiting the library on their own. In this case, the children are subject to the Patron Code of Conduct Policies. The library reserves the right to contact parents, guardians or proper authorities if unattended children require supervision. The other exception is during the Summer Reading Program. Parents/guardians/caregivers need to arrange a safe escort to and from Summer Reading Programs, as library staff not responsible for children before and after programs.
- Children at least 12 years of age may be unattended as long as they abide by the Patron Code of Conduct Policies.

The Crete Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended at the library, nor is the Library responsible if children leave the Library property unattended. If a child appears to be lost, the library staff will immediately try to locate the responsible adult. If the adult is not immediately located, library staff will contact the police department for assistance. The staff will at no time take the child out of the library on their own.

Approved by the Crete City Council, 1 August 2017