

UNATTENDED CHILDREN/YOUNG ADULT POLICY

For the safety and comfort of children and young adults, the library asks that all children below the age of ten be accompanied and supervised by a parent or responsible caregiver (age twelve or over) while using the library.

Parents or caregivers, not the library staff, are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children while using the library.

The library does not assume responsibility for the safety or behavior of children or young adults when they are in the library. Children and young adults must always obey Library rules. Parents should be aware that children aged ten and over exhibiting disruptive behavior may be told to leave the library.

Libraries may have sudden emergencies that cause them to close without advance warning or programs may be cancelled or end early. Parents should advise their children on what to do in these or other unexpected circumstances.

Parents should be aware of Library hours and program ending times.

If children under age ten are left unattended, Library staff will attempt to contact parents or a responsible caregiver. If parents or responsible caregivers are unavailable, proper authorities will be contacted.

Parents/responsible caregivers should remain in the library while children nine and younger are attending library classes, programs, and events.

It is recommended that all children have a library card and carry it with them. Unattended children aged ten and older should have knowledge of the name, address and phone number(s) of parent/guardian or caregivers in case of an emergency.

When visiting the library, young adults must make arrangements to be picked up prior to closing time. While the Library staff is not responsible for the supervision of young adults, on a case-by-case basis, at least two staff members may elect to (i) wait with the young adult until he or she is either picked up, and/or (ii) summon the Suffolk County Police Department. If the Suffolk County Police Department is summoned, the staff members shall wait with the young adult until the Police Department arrives. An incident report describing the situation shall be filed and given to the Library Director.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees June 19, 2001; revised December 21, 2017; combined Unattended Child and Unattended Young Adult into one policy December 19, 2022.