

Unattended Children Policy

Parents should not view the library as an alternative to daycare. The Library in no way assumes any responsibility for any child left unattended in the Library. For the safety and protection of all patrons, the William D. Weeks Memorial Library has developed the following policy:

- All children under the age of 7 must be accompanied by an adult or responsible caregiver, unless pre-approved by the library staff.
- Unattended youth, age 7 and up, are welcome to use the library as long as their behavior is acceptable.
- Parents should be advised that if their children misbehave they will be told to leave the library.
- Parents should realize that in their absence they are still legally responsible for their children's behavior.
- Library staff shall not be placed in the position of supervising children except when the children are in scheduled library programs.
- Parents and caregivers of unattended children age 7 and up must arrive at the library to pick up their children fifteen minutes prior to closing time on any day the library is open.
- If children are in the library without an adult at closing time, staff will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver. If the parent or caregiver can't be located, the police will be contacted to pick up the child. Two library staff, non custodial, members will stay with the child until the parent or police arrive. If the parents arrive before the police arrive, the police shall be notified. Under no circumstances is a staff member ever to drive any patron home, child or adult.

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