

Unattended Children Policy

Policy Statement

Library Service to children, parents, and adults working with children is an important part of the Library's mission.

It is not the Library's function or purpose to provide supervision or care for children while parents or other supervising adults are outside the Children's Library and/or the Library proper. Parents should be aware that the Library is a public building open to all individuals. Parents and guardians are, at all times, responsible for the conduct and safety of their children on Library premises.

The following policy has been designed to communicate the Library's concern for the safety and welfare of the children it serves and is in accordance with Connecticut State law pertaining to unaccompanied minors.*

Children under the age of 12

- Children under the age of 12 may not be left in the Library unsupervised by a parent or caregiver. Exceptions may be made during specific supervised library programs for children in grades 6 and up.
- Children under the age of 12 must have a parent/caregiver in the immediate vicinity of and in visual contact with the child.

Children age 12 and older

- Children 12 years and older may use the Library unaccompanied by an adult provided they are able to comply with the Library's Code of Conduct and do not require excessive staff attention.
- Children who are not using the Library appropriately, or who require excessive staff attention, may be asked to leave.

- Parents and guardians should be aware of the Library's opening and closing times, and that operating hours might change unexpectedly. The Staff cannot monitor children leaving the premises, nor is it the staff's responsibility to know with whom a child is leaving.
- The Library is not responsible for children outside the building who await transportation or who are socializing.

Behavior

Parents/caregivers are responsible for the conduct and safety of their children in the Library whether a parent/caregiver is present. Children, like all Library patrons, are required to follow the Library's Code of Conduct. This includes respecting Library property and other patrons and acting in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the Library. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior may result in the individual(s) being asked to leave the Library and/or the Fairfield Police Department will be notified as deemed necessary by the staff.

*In accordance with Connecticut State law – Reference Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 53-21a:

“Leaving a child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or motor vehicle: Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, or any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a Class A Misdemeanor.”

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Fairfield Library on April 2018

Reviewed by Board of Trustees of the Fairfield Library on October 11, 2022