

Service to Minors

The Fairfield Public Library, a department of the Town of Fairfield (“Library”), strives to provide service to all users of every age. Consistent with this mission, Library staff endeavor to create a safe and comfortable environment for patrons of all ages. Keep in mind, however, that the Library is a public building and staff are not responsible for and cannot guarantee the safety of children left unattended in the Library. **The supervision, welfare, and behavior of children using the Library remains at all times the responsibility of the child’s parent, guardian, or other responsible adult caregiver accompanying the child to the library.**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 53-21a*, the purpose of this Policy is to communicate the Library’s expectations regarding the use of the Library by children and to promote the safety and welfare of the children it serves. This policy will be applied without discrimination and in the best interests of all library users so that everyone may safely and comfortably use the library facilities.

Minors under the age of 12:

- Library Users under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other adult caregiver responsible for the child’s safety and behavior while on Library premises (“caregiver”).
- While on Library premises, Library users under the age of 12 must at all times remain in the immediate vicinity of, meaning in the direct line of sight of, their parent, guardian, or caregiver. Exceptions to this requirement may be made during specific library programs for minors in grades six and up on a case-by-case basis.
- In the event that Library staff encounters an unaccompanied minor under the age of 12 on Library premises, staff will typically attempt to locate the minor’s parent, guardian, or caregiver.
- If staff cannot locate the parent, guardian, or caregiver on Library premises, Library staff will attempt to contact the child’s parent, guardian, or caregiver. If the parent, guardian, or caregiver cannot be reached, staff will contact the Fairfield Police Department.
- Library users under the age of 12 who cannot follow library policy or who require excessive staff attention may be asked to leave.

Minors age 12 and older:

- Library Users 12 years and older may use library facilities unaccompanied by a parent or caregiver.
- While minors ages 12 and older may use the Library unaccompanied, parents guardians, and caregivers should be aware that Library staff are not responsible for supervising minors, and as such, should consider whether unsupervised use of the Library is appropriate for their individual child before allowing the minor to visit the Library unattended.
- Parents and caregivers should be aware of the Library’s opening and closing times and that operating hours might change unexpectedly.
- Staff do not monitor minors leaving the premises, nor is it the staff’s responsibility to know with whom a minor is leaving with.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for the conduct and safety of their children in the Library whether or not a parent, guardian, or caregiver is present. Library users of any age may be asked to leave the Library if they violate the Library Code of Conduct or otherwise demonstrate inappropriate behavior requiring excessive staff attention.

Adopted: 4/24

Next Review: 6/25

Replaces: Unattended Child Policy