WadsworthLibrary

UNATTENDED MINOR POLICY

Wadsworth Library is dedicated to providing a warm, welcoming, exciting, and safe environment for people of all ages.

Parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for children's behavior at all times while in the Library. Even when parents, guardians and caregivers are absent, they are legally responsible for their children's safety, well-being, and behavior.

Library staff are committed to helping all patrons with activities related to the Library. However, Library staff do not assume supervision for children who visit the Library.

All patrons are welcome to visit the Library as long as they observe the general rules of conduct.

INTERNET AND COMPUTERS

The Library provides internet workstations and children's tablet computers. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for their children's use of all Library resources, including the internet.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are encouraged to assist their children with public computers. *See Acceptable Use of Computers Policy*

UNACCEPTABLE CHILD BEHAVIOR

If a child's behavior is unacceptable (*See Rules of Conduct)*, the staff may ask them to leave the Library and, if necessary, the police may be contacted. The Director will meet with the parent, guardian, or caregiver at the time of the incident, or a letter and/or phone call will be sent/made to the parent, guardian or caregiver to discuss the situation and library policy. If further consequences are needed, they will be at the discretion of the Director.

UNACCEPTABLE ADULT BEHAVIOR

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for their child's safety, well-being and behavior at all times. In the event a parent, guardian, or caregiver fails to follow this policy, the Library reserves the right to contact the appropriate law enforcement or social service agency.

CHILDREN'S AREA IN THE LIBRARY

Children's areas in the library are reserved for children accompanied by their parents, guardians, or caregivers. Adults not engaged in library activities may be asked to relocate to other areas of the library.

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AT CLOSING TIME

When the Library is near closing time, staff will locate all patrons in the Library and remind them of the closing time. The posted closing time will be strictly observed. All patrons, regardless of age, will be expected to safely exit the building when the Library closes. In the event an unaccompanied minor has not been retrieved by a parent, guardian, or caregiver, the Library reserves the right to contact local law enforcement or the appropriate social services agency.

If the Library must close due to unexpected reasons out of the control of staff (i.e. power outage, loss of heat, inclement weather, etc.) all patrons will be expected to leave the library in accordance with the clause above.

At no time shall a child be left alone in the Library or on Library property. There must be two Library staff with the child until the matter is resolved (either a parent, guardian, or caregiver arrives or the police assume responsibility for the child). Under no circumstance will a Library staff person transport the child home. A detailed Incident Report will be filed with the Director should a situation arise when a minor is left unattended at the time of closing of the Library. If a lateness pattern is observed, suspension of Library privileges may be imposed.

Violations of this Unattended Minor Policy are grounds for suspension of Library privileges.

RESPONSIBILITY

DIRECTOR

Adopted by Board of Trustees October 20, 2011
Reviewed by Board of Trustees May 10, 2018
Revised by Board of Trustees November 9, 2023