



Unattended Child Policy

Sachem Public Library welcomes all children and their families to use its facilities/grounds, resources, and services. Responsibility for children using the Library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. Although staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for the safety, behavior and comfort of unattended children. Staff cannot be expected to monitor or prevent an unattended child from leaving the building/grounds.

Children age 9 and under must be accompanied at all times by a parent/guardian or other responsible person age 14 or older. Children attending programs are supervised by the staff only during the scheduled time of the program. The parent/guardian or caregiver must remain in the Library and immediately join the child at the end of the program.

Children age 10 and older may visit the Library unattended for a reasonable period of time provided they are able to maintain proper library behavior. Children are expected to follow the rules of conduct as outlined in the Public Behavior in the Library Policy. Unattended children must have with them the telephone numbers of a parent/guardian or caregiver who can be contacted to pick up the child in case of an emergency. Every reasonable effort will be made to contact a parent/guardian or caregiver when a child's:

- health or safety is in doubt;
- behavior disturbs other library users
- parent/guardian or caregiver is not present at closing time
- actions violate any of the Rules of Conduct for Library Patrons

If no responsible adult is reached, or the child is not picked up within 15 minutes of Library closing, staff may notify the police.

If, in the judgment of the department manager in charge, an unsupervised child's conduct, age or maturity level or the conduct or age of those with or responsible for the child, exposes the child or others to risk, disrupts the operation of the Library, violates any of the Rules of Conduct for Library Patrons or requires continual staff intervention, the staff will require that such child leave the Library. If, in the judgment of the department manager in charge, the child cannot safely leave the premises without adult supervision due to age, capacity, time of day, or other circumstance, the department manager in charge will attempt to contact the parent/guardian or caregiver and request the child's removal from the Library. If a parent/guardian or caregiver is unavailable then proper authorities will be notified.

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