

Wadleigh Memorial Library Safety of Minors Policy

The Wadleigh Memorial Library welcomes children of all ages to use and enjoy the facilities, collections and programs offered by the library. While staff makes every effort to ensure the space is safe and welcoming, young children are safest when supervised by a parent, caregiver or mature adolescent while in the library. Responsible adults should remember that the library is a public building available for the use of all, and staff do not monitor who is coming and going. For the protection and well-being of children who enjoy libraries, the following policy has been established:

- Children age eight (8) and under must be accompanied and ***continuously supervised*** by a parent, guardian or other person (who shall be a minimum age of 11 per the American Red Cross) while in the Library.
- Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the conduct of their minor children (under 18 years of age) in the Library or Library grounds, *regardless of whether they are accompanying their children or not.*
- The Library staff is not responsible for preventing a minor from leaving the Library or Library grounds.
- The parent or guardian must stay in the library building while their child age eight (8) or younger is attending a library-sponsored program. Children attending library programs are supervised by the library staff *only during the scheduled time of the program* unless otherwise stated in program materials or by the supervising staff member.
- All minor children (under 18 years of age) whose parents are attending a meeting or special event at the library after regular closing time must remain with their parents.
- At no time will a staff member be alone with a minor (under 18 years of age) in an area not monitored by security cameras or out of view of another staff member. Programs held for minors (under 18 years of age) with only one attendee will be relocated to a public area, unless 2 or more staff members are at the program
- All visitors to the library must conduct themselves in accordance with the Library's Code of Conduct Policy. Disruptive behavior including shouting, running, pushing, or other rambunctious activities, is not permitted. Staff will ask disruptive children to leave library property. The responsible adult will be notified when older children using the library independently show a pattern of not adhering to the guidelines of this policy. The library staff will contact the police as appropriate.

The Library is not responsible for any consequences of parents forfeiting their responsibilities.

Reviewed and Amended on December 21, 2021
Reviewed and Amended on January 22, 2019
Approved April 19, 2016 as "Unattended Children Policy"
Board of Trustees
Wadleigh Memorial Library

