

# Unattended Children Policy

The Hollis Social Library is intended to be a place where everyone is welcome. Everyone is encouraged to read, attend programs, and to make use of the library resources. For the safety of minor children and the enjoyment of all patrons using the library, the library has developed and will follow a specific policy regarding unattended children. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to ask a staff member for an explanation.

- Children under 10 years of age, while in the library, shall at all times be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person (parent, caregiver or sibling age 16 or older.)
- Children age 10-13 years may be left unattended for no more than two hours. The person responsible for the child must leave a telephone number with the child where he/she may be reached or the telephone number of another responsible person who can transport the child home if necessary.
- Young people age 14 through 17 years are treated as adult users. However, they are legally the responsibility of their parents and should have an emergency contact telephone number available.
- Disruptive Attended Children:
  - Library staff will ask disruptive child to behave.
  - If the disruptive behavior continues, library staff shall inform responsible person that their child is disruptive, pointing out the Rules of Conduct posted in the library.
  - Both may be asked to leave if the responsible person is unable or unwilling to control the child.
- Disruptive Unattended Children
  - Library staff will ask disruptive child to behave, pointing out the Rules of Conduct posted in the library.
  - If disruptive behavior persists, library staff members shall attempt to contact the responsible person who will be advised of their child's behavior and asked to pick up their child immediately.
- Unattended Children At Closing Time
  - The library staff will not assume responsibility for the welfare or supervision of any child.
  - Thirty minutes before closing time, the library staff shall urge all unattended children, under 18 years, to call their parents. If parents do not arrive by closing time, at the discretion of the staff, the Hollis Police may be called to assist the child.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL A STAFF MEMBER TAKE A CHILD OUT OF THE BUILDING OR TRANSPORT THE CHILD TO ANOTHER LOCATION.

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Adopted 1/6/03 by the Hollis Library Trustees

