

Policy on Unattended Children

Adopted February 2011

Reviewed January 2020

Children 6 years & younger should be accompanied into the building and remain under direct supervision by an adult while in the building. Those attending library programs must have a responsible person who remains in the building throughout the program.

Children ages 7 - 8 may remain unsupervised for one hour.

Children ages 9 - 12 may remain unsupervised for a maximum of three hours.

Children ages 13 & older may have unlimited time at the library as long as their behavior is not disruptive.

If a child is not under appropriate supervision, but the child's accompanying adult is in the building, staff should lead the child to the adult and clarify the policy. If an accompanying adult is not in the building and cannot be reached by phone or other means, library staff will contact the Monroe Police and request assistance.

All individuals are subject to regular library guidelines concerning disruptive behavior. (Please refer to the library's *Policy on Appropriate Library Behavior*). Parents will be notified if children using the library independently are not adhering to the rules of this policy and barred from the premises for more than a day as a result.

To assure the safety of children who are visiting the library independently and are still in the library at closing time, library staff will follow these guidelines:

- Children under 15 years of age will not be left on the library property unattended after library hours without supervision.
- Staff members will not drive or escort the child(ren) home.
- At least two staff members will remain with the child(ren) for up to 15 minutes after closing. Library staff will make every attempt to contact the parent or responsible adult during that period.
- If the child is not picked up within 15 minutes of closing time, library staff will contact the Monroe Police and request assistance. Once the child is under the supervision of the police officer, the staff members may leave.