

070. POLICY ON UNATTENDED CHILDREN

The Seekonk Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use its facilities and services. The Library seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for all of its young users.

Parents or assigned caregivers are solely responsible for the minors that they either accompany or leave at the Library. Staff of the Seekonk Public Library assumes no responsibility for the behavior or safety of unattended children beyond the caution dictated by obviously dangerous situations. The Library staff will not assume responsibility on behalf of either themselves or the Library for any unattended child.

Children may use the Library unaccompanied by an adult when the child is at least 10 years of age and sufficiently mature and responsible. Unaccompanied children must be picked up 15 minutes prior to closing. Age limits may be imposed on certain programs and services, however, at the discretion of the library director.

In the case of a medical emergency, library staff will call 911 and a parent/caregiver (if known) in that order.

In the case of an unexpected closing, library staff will attempt to reach a parent/caregiver. If that parent/caregiver is unable to pick up the child within a reasonable time, library staff will contact the Seekonk Police Department.

The Board of Trustees authorizes the library director to establish rules and procedures to deal with unattended children. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting the discretionary authority of the library director to take corrective action when an immediate danger to a child exists.

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