

## **Unattended Minors**

The Hauppauge Public Library welcomes children and youth of all ages to use its facilities and services. The safety and well-being of guests of all ages and the maintenance of an atmosphere conducive to library use are main concerns. Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for the safety and comfort of minors when they are unattended.

Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of all minors using the Hauppauge Public Library rests solely with the parent or adult caregiver. Children elementary school aged and younger must be accompanied by, and adequately supervised by, a parent or an adult caregiver. Proper adult supervision means that the child is within eyesight of their parent or adult caregiver.

Older youth (middle and high school children) may be unaccompanied for a reasonable period of time, provided they observe library rules and behavior policies. Older youth should have the contact information (cell phone/home phone) for their parent or adult caregiver, so that a responsible person may be contacted to pick up the child in the event of a health emergency or an unexpected closure of the library.

Parents and adult caregivers must be aware of library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport children home or to any other destination.

If a child of any age is left unattended at closing time, every effort will be made to contact the parent or adult caregiver to arrange for transportation. In the event a parent or adult caregiver cannot be contacted and/or 15 minutes has passed, the library will call for police assistance. Two library staff members will stay with the child until the police arrive. Under no conditions will library staff transport children home or to any other destination.

Adopted: October 16, 2003

Amended: October 2010; June 2021

Reviewed: July 15, 2010