



## **Watertown Public Library Unattended Child Policy**

### **Purpose:**

To ensure the safety and well being of children who visit the library and maintain an atmosphere of constructive library use.

### **Policy:**

Responsibility for the welfare and behavior of children using the library rests with the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. Staff cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when they are unattended.

#### Supervision of children:

- A. Preschool children should be in sight of and supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. Parents or caregivers of preschool children are expected to remain in the library while children are attending library programs.
- B. Older children able to maintain proper library behavior may use the library unattended, otherwise they should be adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver.

#### Staff may, as needed:

- A. Notify parents, guardians, or responsible caregivers that children need additional supervision.
- B. Contact authorities such as the Police to assist with the enforcement of discipline in the library or to ensure the safety of an unattended child.

Two staff members will remain in the library if a minor child is in the building at closing. If any child remains at the library 15 minutes after closing, staff will contact the Watertown Police Department.

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