

Pound Ridge Library Unattended Children Policy

Purpose: The Pound Ridge Library is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all library users. This policy outlines our guidelines regarding unattended children within the library premises.

Definitions

Unattended Child: An unattended child is defined as any library user under the age of 12 who is not accompanied and supervised by a responsible caregiver.

Responsible Caregiver: A responsible caregiver is a parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult aged 18 or older who is responsible for the child's safety, behavior, and well-being while in the library.

Guidelines

1. Age Requirement

Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver while in the library.

2. Unaccompanied Children

Children aged 12 and older may use the library unaccompanied during regular library hours. However, they are expected to adhere to library rules and regulations.

3. Library Behavior

All children, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, must behave in a manner that respects library property, staff, and other library users. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

4. Responsibility of Caregivers

Responsible caregivers are responsible for the safety and well-being of their children while in the library.

Caregivers must ensure that children do not engage in disruptive or unsafe activities.

Caregivers should be aware of the library's hours of operation and make appropriate transportation arrangements.

5. Staff Responsibilities

Library staff will not assume the role of caregivers but will monitor the library environment to ensure compliance with this policy.

In cases of disruptive behavior, staff may request the child to leave the library temporarily or contact a responsible caregiver.

In emergency situations, staff will take appropriate action to ensure the safety and well-being of the child, which may include contacting law enforcement or medical personnel.

6. Closing Time

Children should be aware of the library's closing time and make arrangements to leave the library promptly at closing.

7. Lost or Unattended Child

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If a child is found unattended and staff are unable to locate a responsible caregiver, staff will follow established procedures to ensure the child's safety. This may include contacting local law enforcement and child protective services.

8. Review and Revision

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it aligns with the library's mission and community needs. Any necessary revisions will be made in consultation with library staff and stakeholders.

9. Outreach and Education

The library may offer educational resources and programs to promote responsible parenting and caregiver awareness.

10. Reporting

Library staff and patrons are encouraged to report concerns regarding unattended children to library management.

Adoption Date: November 21, 2023 Review Date: November 21, 2028