

Policy #9 Unattended Minors

Children under the age of 12 must be attended at all times, with the exception of children under age 12 in grades 4-8 who are attending Tween programs.

Children under 12 attending a Library program must be brought into the building by a parent or responsible caregiver who must remain in the building and be responsible for his/her children, with the exception of middle and high school aged children arriving after school by school bus.

Disruptive children of any age will be asked to leave for the day.

Parents/ Guardians should be aware the Connecticut Law states:

Sec. 53-21a. Leaving child unsupervised in place of public accommodation or motor vehicle. (a) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

All unattended minors will be reminded of time 15 minutes prior to closing. They will be allowed to use library phones to arrange transportation. Staff will wait with patrons younger than 12 years of age, or any patron for whom there is a concern. At 15 minutes past closing, the Coventry Police may be called to wait with or pick up the minor. In the case of repeated tardy pickups of less than 15 minutes, a letter to the parent or guardian will be sent and at the discretion of the Library Director, a suspension of library privileges may occur.

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Revised May 2012
Revised June 2008
Revised May 2007
Reviewed May 2004
Revised May 1998
Adopted 1987

Unattended Minors Procedures

The parent/responsible caregiver:

- a) will attend their children who are under the age of 12 at all times.
- b) will be responsible for the behavior of their children at all times.
- c) will bring into the building children ages 0-12 attending a Library program, unless their child arrives at the library by school bus.
- d) will remain in the building for the duration of the Library program.
- e) will retain responsibility for their children.

The Library Staff:

- a) will aid the children in finding the information they seek.
- b) will note if children under age 12 are chronically unattended for a long period of time, or have nothing to do, or are disruptive.
- c) will attempt to phone home.

If there is no answer, desk staff:

- a) will inform the Library Director or Designated Acting Director.

If there is a problem, any staff may contact the Coventry Police at any time.

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