

Unattended Children Policy

Policy Statement

The goal of the library is to maintain a welcoming environment that encourages families to explore library resources and share learning opportunities. The library wants adults and children of all ages to have a safe, positive experience. Unattended children may act in a manner not in compliance with the library's code of conduct thus adversely affecting other patrons' library experience and diverting staff from providing service to other patrons.

Regulations

1. For their own protection, children under the age of 14 must be accompanied and adequately supervised by an adult at all times. The library is a public place and, as such, cannot be responsible for unattended children.
2. If an unattended child acts in a manner not in compliance with the library's code of conduct, staff members will take appropriate actions that may include contacting the police.
3. If unattended children are in the library at closing, staff will take appropriate actions that may include contacting the police.
4. If the parents or police do not pick up the child within one half hour of closing after appropriate notification attempts by library staff, the parents will be charged \$50 an hour or any portion of an hour for each employee remaining with the child. The fee will be attached to the parent's library card.
5. When a parent or caregiver reports a lost child in the library, staff will immediately respond and follow established guidelines and procedures that may include contacting the police.
6. First offenses will be handled verbally by attending staff or in writing by the library director. Second offenses may result in restricted or suspended library privileges.

Approved: January 14, 2008 Revised: March 2018
Rochester Hills Public Library Board of Trustees