

UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

For the protection and well-being of children who use and enjoy our Library, the following policy has been established.

1. Children who are ten (10) years of age or older may be unaccompanied provided they observe Library rules. Children must have the telephone numbers of their parent, guardian or other caregiver so that a responsible person may be contacted to come pick up the child in case of a health emergency or other special circumstance, such as an unexpected closing or a child unaccompanied at closing time.
2. While in the Library, children ages nine (9) years of age or younger shall, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person who is present in the Library (parent, guardian, caregiver, or mature adolescent 14 years of age or older). Pre-school aged children must be accompanied by this person when in the restroom, the elevator or stairwells. Should the “mature adolescent 14 years of age or older” not demonstrate the ability to provide appropriate care for the younger child, then another adult will be required to be in the Library with the child in the future.
3. Parents, guardians, caregivers or mature adolescents, **not Library staff**, are responsible for the behavior of their children. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
4. When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, the Library staff will attempt to contact the parent, guardian or caregiver. If the parent, guardian or caregiver is unavailable, the Library staff will contact the Nassau County Police.
5. Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of Library privileges based on the assessment of the Library Director.

Definitions of “Unattended Child” and “Disruptive Behavior” are as follows:

Unattended Child: Child from pre-school through age nine (9) left in the Library unaccompanied by a responsible person (parent, guardian, caregiver or mature adolescent 14 years of age or older).

Disruptive Behavior: Behavior that represents physical danger to the child or others, or behavior that interferes with other Library users or staff. Disruptive behavior is behavior that is inappropriate in a library setting. Types of

inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to: running, throwing materials or items, eating, loud or abusive talking, excessive socializing, moving furniture, and abusing or defacing Library materials (including Library owned hardware and software).

POLICY NO. 700-4

ADOPTED 9/24/1992

AMENDED 3/27/2000, 12/28/2006, 11/17/2011