



## Unattended Child Policy

The Warner Library is committed to the safety of the children in our community. However, because the building is open to the public, the library should never be considered a place for children to be left unattended. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests with the parents, legal guardians, or other responsible adult caregivers. Library staff members cannot be responsible for the care and safety of unattended children in the library.

To safeguard children, the following rules are in effect:

- Limits are set on a minimum age for children to attend the library alone based on age.
- All children age 8 and under must be supervised by a parent, guardian or other responsible adult. They may also be supervised by an older child at least 14 years old.
- For this policy 'supervised' means that they are in control of the underage child's behavior, and that the child is not left unattended for a significant length of time.
- Children aged 9 and above may use the library without an adult present, but must be able to reach a responsible adult immediately. All children must abide by the general Patron Conduct Policy. Any child who breaks the policy three times will be required to be accompanied by an adult, even if they are above the minimum grade level.
- Parents or caregivers should be aware of library closing times. If a child is not picked up by the time the library closes, a member of the staff will notify local law enforcement.

In the event that a child aged 8 or younger is in the library without a supervising guardian the staff will attempt to contact the child's parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian is unwilling to pick up the child, or cannot be reached after a period of 30 minutes, the local law enforcement will be notified.