



Supervision of Minors/Children Policy

In order to prevent undue disruption of normal library activities, and to provide for the general safety of patrons using the Hampstead Public Library, the following rules and regulations regarding minors (also described as children in this policy) shall be followed.

All children ages 8 years old or younger, shall, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person, i.e., an adult or a mature adolescent who is at least 14 years of age. Parents or caregivers should expect to stay with children at events intended for this age group.

In the event of a child 8 years old or younger being found unattended by a responsible person at the Library, library staff will attempt to contact a parent or guardian, and if no one is available then the Hampstead Police Department will be contacted to assist the child.

Children ages 9 years old and up may use the library unattended, subject to the Hampstead Public Library's patron code of conduct. If a child is participating in an activity sponsored by or held with the permission of the Hampstead Public Library, the caregiver may leave the library, but must ensure the child has contact information in case it is needed.

The responsibility for the behavior of children in the Library rests with the parent/caregiver and not with Library staff. Library staff cannot be responsible for minors who are unattended or demonstrating inappropriate behavior. Children who exhibit inappropriate behavior will be addressed and may be asked to leave the Library.

Minors who are in the library alone must be picked up or otherwise able to make their own way safely home before closing time. If a child is left at the Library after closing, the Library staff will attempt to contact parents or guardians, and if not reachable, the Hampstead Police Department will be contacted to assist.

Accepted by Board of Trustees 7/19/1994 as Unattended Children Policy
Revised from Supervision of Patrons with Special Needs Policy of 2007 and
Approved by the Board of Trustees August 19, 2025