

Amherst Public Library Unattended Minors

Amherst Public Library welcomes and encourages patrons of all ages to visit the library and take advantage of the programs, services and resources that it offers. Responsibility for the safety and behavior of minors always rests with the parent, guardian, or assigned adult caregiver, and not with library staff. Staff cannot act *in loco parentis*, nor can library staff supervise unattended youth. **No unattended minors may be left unattended anywhere in the library.**

An unattended minor is considered to be:

- One who is unable to care for himself or herself.
- One who needs close supervision, even if a parent or caregiver is elsewhere in the building.

Parents or guardians will be held responsible for damage to items or equipment caused by their minor child.

It is important for staff to take note of disruptions caused by children who are apparently unaccompanied. Children displaying inappropriate or destructive behavior will be informed of the rules. If inappropriate behavior continues, the child may be asked to leave the library. If a child is unaccompanied by an adult or appropriate-aged caregiver, and, in the judgment of the staff, is too young to travel alone, the staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, or assigned caregiver. Police officers may be asked to intervene if the situation warrants.

UNATTENDED MINORS AT CLOSING TIME

No stranded child shall be ejected from the library at closing time. Two library staff members will remain after hours and attempt to contact a parent, guardian or assigned caregiver up to 15 minutes after closing. After that time, staff will call the police and ask them to assume responsibility for the unattended child.

Adopted by the Amherst Public Library Board of Trustees 2/15/2011

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