

Unattended Minor Policy

The East Haddam Library System welcomes and encourages children and teens to use our facilities and services. The Library is free and open to unaccompanied minors who are 12 years of age or older. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult at all times in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 53-21a, except when attending children's programs for children only (as determined by the Children's Librarian); at which time their parent, guardian, or supervising adult must remain in the building.

Responsibility for the care, safety, and behavior of minors using the Library rests with their parents or guardians at all times, accompanied or unaccompanied.

- **Children under the age of 12 may not be left unsupervised in the Library.**

Exceptions may be made during programs that the library has designated as appropriate for children to attend on their own, at which time the person responsible for the child's supervision may be absent from the room, but must remain in the building. If a child under 12 is left unsupervised in the library, or is left at the library upon closing time, the staff member in charge will try to contact the child's parents or guardians. If contact cannot be made within 20 minutes, the police will be notified. Under no circumstances will a library staff member or volunteer drive a child home. After hours, at least two staff members will wait with the child until either the child's parents, guardians or the police arrive. For the purposes of this policy, an unsupervised minor refers to a child or teen who is in the library alone or a child whose parent, guardian, or supervising adult is in the library but is not adequately supervising that child.

- **Minors age 12 and older may use the Library unaccompanied by an adult.**

Parents and guardians are responsible for the safety and conduct of their teen while on library premises, whether or not they accompany their teen to the library. Teens are expected to adhere to the same standards of conduct as adults. A teen who is not following the Library Code of Conduct may be asked to leave the premises. The library is not responsible for minors over the age of 12 after hours. Parents and guardians should be aware of the library's hours of operation and keep in mind that hours may change unexpectedly due to emergencies or inclement weather.

Approved by Library Board of Trustees 5/11/2023