

Unattended Children

1. The NCPL does not have the staff or resources to monitor all patrons, in all places, at all times. The library cannot be responsible for the care and safety of minor children traveling to or from the library or while on library property. Out of concern for the safety and security of children using the library, the NCPL Board of Trustees has implemented the following rules:

- Preschool age children must have a parent or responsible individual with them at all times while on library property unless attending library sponsored children's programs (parents must remain in the building during programs).
- School age students through 18 years of age may use the library unattended for any length of time as long as their conduct is acceptable in a library setting and general conduct rules are observed.
- Parents and caregivers are ultimately responsible for ensuring the safety of and monitoring the activities and behavior of their children while the children are on library property.

2. If an unattended child is being disruptive, is habitually left unattended for long periods of time, or is deemed to be at risk of coming to harm (as in the case of a child being left unattended when the library is ready to close), an effort will be made to locate the responsible parent, guardian, or caregiver. When contact efforts fail, the appropriate law enforcement or child protective authorities will be notified to take custody of the child.