



## **Hopkinton Public Library UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY**

Hopkinton Public Library is committed to providing a wide range of services and programs to all library users regardless of age. Service to children is of vital importance. This policy is not intended to restrict library service to children; rather the policy is adopted to insure the general safety and well-being of all children that use the library.

**Children Under the Age of 9** must be accompanied at all times by a responsible person (parent, relative age 12 or older, or care provider) while visiting the library.

**Children Age 9 and Older** may use the library unattended for an amount of time appropriate to their age and maturity.

Children that violate the behavior policy will be informed of the rules. If the behavior continues, the child shall be asked to leave the library. Staff members are not obligated to contact a parent or guardian if the minor child is asked to leave the library property for violation of the behavior policy.

Minor children who are in chronic or egregious violation of the behavior policy will be required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian during library visits for a period to be determined by the Director. Responsible persons must remain in programs with children that require supervision, regardless of age.

The Library does not assume responsibility for the behavior or safety of children who are left unaccompanied in the library. This includes watching children while parents or guardians participate in library programs or activities.

Parents are liable for all damages done by their children to the library facility or materials.

If a child of any age is not picked up by closing time, the library staff will make every attempt to locate the parents by telephone. If the staff is unable to reach the parents, they will contact the Hopkinton Police Department.

Under **no circumstance** will a staff member drive a child home.

**Adopted by the Hopkinton Library Board of Trustees on May 25, 2022.**

This policy supersedes the Children in the Library Policy that was voted on in May 2014.