

# Rockaway Township Free public Library

## Unattended Children Policy



# Rockaway Township Free Public Library

## **Introduction**

The Rockaway Township Library is funded as a Division of Township Government to provide educational, cultural and recreational materials and services to all people of Rockaway Township and, ultimately, of Morris County.

As a public library, the Rockaway Township Library is a unique institution that welcomes customers of all ages and persuasions.

As such, the Rockaway Township Library is a public place and it cannot be responsible for any consequences of caregivers forfeiting their responsibilities. Children and their safety are of great concern to Rockaway Township Library. We encourage families and youth to use the library, and while doing so, affirm the parents' and/or caregiver's responsibility for their child's safety.

The following policy was developed to maintain a safe environment for our children.

## **Definition**

An unattended child is a child of any age who is apparently unaccompanied by a parent or caregiver. Children who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the library or on library grounds at any time and must have adequate supervision from a caregiver.

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Adults, who cannot care for themselves independently without the constant attention of a caregiver, may not be left alone in the library or on library grounds at any time and must have adequate supervision from a caregiver at all times.

### **Age Related Policy**

The library acknowledges that the maturity of children at different ages varies. These rules are subject to the discretion of library staff who may apply them to children other than the ages stated below, if they deem it necessary.

1. Children through the age of five (5) years must have a parent or responsible caregiver in the immediate vicinity (within sight or conversation distance) unless the children are participating in a drop-off library program.
2. Children ages six to seven (6-7) years must have a parent or responsible caregiver in the same service area unless the children are participating in a drop-off library program.
3. Children ages eight to eleven (8-11) years should have a parent or responsible caregiver in the building unless the children are participating in a drop-off library program.
4. When a child participates in a drop-off program, the parent or caregiver must sign the child in and out of the program and, if they do not remain in the building, leave a phone number where they can be reached for the duration of the program. Children must be picked up promptly at the end of the program.

5. Minors twelve (12) and over may use the library unattended for a period of time appropriate to their age and maturity.

6. All children should carry with them the phone number of a parent or responsible caregiver who is to be contacted in case of emergency.

In the event that this policy is violated, we regret that we may have to notify Rockaway Township Police.

The Rockaway Township Free  
Public Library Board of Trustees  
adopted on February 23, 2009.

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