

Unattended Children Policy

The Pelham Library is a public facility that offers services to a wide range of citizens, and children are especially welcome. The library has the responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is appropriately using its services and facilities. Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same standards of patron conduct expected of adults. Parents, guardians, or assigned chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their children while in the library.

Children who have not completed sixth grade should never be left unsupervised in any area of the library. If a parent cannot be located, staff will notify the Pelham Police Department. Under unique circumstances, exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of the library director.

Older children who are disruptive will be asked to leave the library (see "Library Behavior"). If the child cannot safely leave the library to return home on his or her own, the staff will permit the child to call a parent. If no parent can be contacted, the library staff will either allow the child to remain at the library under close supervision until a parent can be contacted or contact the Pelham Police, depending upon the severity of the situation.

Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be given the opportunity to call a parent. The Pelham Police will be notified concerning children who are not able to reach a parent. A charge of \$25.00 per half hour will be assessed for childcare by library staff after library hours. Under no circumstances will staff transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.

Approved by Library Trustees, February 2001

Trustee Chair

