

Unattended Children Policy

Policy Statement

The goal of the library is to maintain a welcoming environment that encourages all to explore library resources and share learning opportunities. The library wants people of all ages to have a safe, positive experience. Library staff cannot act *in loco parentis* for minor children and cannot accept responsibility for actions taken by or toward unattended children.

Regulations

1. For their own protection, children under the age of eleven (11) must be accompanied and adequately supervised by an adult at all times. The library is a public place and, as such, cannot be responsible for unattended children.
2. Children over the age of eleven (11) who are unable to comply with the Library Code of Conduct Policy (CUS-1) may be required to be supervised by a responsible adult.
3. If an unattended child acts in a manner not in compliance with the library's code of conduct, staff members will take appropriate actions that may include contacting the police.
4. If unattended children are in the library or on Library property at closing, staff will attempt to contact the child's parent or guardian.
5. If the parent or guardian do not pick up the child within thirty (30) minutes after closing after appropriate notification attempts by library staff, the Montclair Police Department will be notified and the child turned over to their custody after all other options have been attempted.
6. First offenses will be handled verbally by attending staff or in writing by the library director. Second offenses may result in restricted or suspended library privileges.
7. When a parent or caregiver reports a lost child in the library, staff will immediately respond and follow established guidelines and procedures that may include contacting the police.

Approved: November 26, 2018
Montclair Public Library Board of Trustees