

# Chelsea Public Library

## Unattended Child Policy

The Chelsea Public Library is a place that welcomes children and adults alike. A collection of children's materials is available as are numerous activities for children. However, upon occasion children have been left unattended and unsupervised while at the library.

The responsibility for the child's health, safety, and behavior at the Library resides with the parent or guardian. Library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children visiting the Library. This policy applies to children of all ages who visit the Library.

It is impossible for library staff to monitor the comings and goings of children as well as to recognize if a child leaves with an adult other than a family member or designated caregiver. Due to concern for, above all, the safety of children while on library premises the Chelsea Public Library Board has drawn up the following to serve as rules and regulations in regard to children at the library.

1. Children under the age of twelve are not to be left unattended and unsupervised while at the library under any circumstances. Children six years of age and younger must be closely supervised at all times by an older responsible adult.
2. Children under the age of twelve may not be dropped off to attend a library program and picked up at a later time including but not limited to story hour, summer reading program, or any other program for children.
3. Children under the age of twelve must be accompanied by an adult. An adult is defined as a designated caregiver or family member of eighteen years old or older. It is not acceptable for children under the age of twelve to be left at the library under the supervision of a sibling who is less than eighteen years old.
4. Children twelve years old or older may be left at the library as long as they exhibit appropriate library behavior.
5. Inappropriate behavior includes but is not limited to loud talking, offensive comments directed at library staff or other patrons, interference with other library patrons' use of the facility, running, misuse or abuse of library materials or equipment, and failure to observe courteous behavior to other library patrons. If a child exhibits inappropriate behavior the parent of the child will be contacted to take the child home. Failure to follow appropriate library behavior will result in library staff instructing parents that their child may not be left unattended at the library even if the child is twelve years old or older. Continued inappropriate behavior may result in a loss of library privileges.
6. Children under the age of eighteen may not be left alone at the library at closing time. The library reserves the right to turn over to the proper authorities minors (under the age of 17) left unattended for extended periods of time or left after library hours.



Dawn Wilson, Board Chair



Date



Dana Polk, Director