Clarendon Hills Public Library
Unattended Child Policy

1. Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children while they are in the Library. The Clarendon Hills Public Library staff is committed to help children with activities related to the Library. However, Library staff cannot serve as baby-sitters.

2. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended even for brief periods of time. When a child is left at the Library without a caregiver, the child's boredom, fatigue or fear may lead to behavior that disrupts the services the Library staff provides for them and for others. Staff members cannot know or be responsible if children are leaving the building on their own or with another person who may or may not be the child's caregiver. The Library encourages parents to consider the safety and well-being of their children and the needs of other Library Users of all ages.

3. Children under the age of 9 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a caregiver of at least 14 years of age. When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt or the caregiver cannot be located, Library staff is authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive.

4. In the event that an unattended child is still at the Library 15 minutes after the Library closes to the public, the police will be called to pick up the child. Attempts will be made during that 15 minutes to reach parents, but in no instance will staff take young people home.

5. Children age 9 and over may use the Library unattended by a caregiver, but are still subject to the Library's Code of Conduct. Children may be asked to leave for violating conduct rules.

6. Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of Library privileges. Whenever advisable, the Library will notify the parents of incidents involving an unattended child.

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