

Randall Library – Stow, MA
100-00006 – Rev 02 – August 2021
Child Safety Policy

Child Safety Policy

Children are always welcome and encouraged to visit the Randall Library. A parent or guardian *must* accompany their children aged 0-9 to the library for visits and are responsible for their supervision while at the library. Responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent or assigned chaperon, not with library personnel. Parent-designated caregivers, such as teen siblings or babysitters, must demonstrate that they are willing and capable of supervising their younger charges at the library.

Children ages 10-17 may use the library on their own provided that they comply with all library rules. If a child does not comply with library rules or the Patron Code of Conduct, a library staff member may ask them to leave the library and the police may be contacted. The parent or guardian who permits his/her children to use the library unattended should make arrangements for emergencies. The child should have the telephone number of a parent or guardian who can provide transportation from the library if needed. Additionally, the child should know what to do if the library were to close unexpectedly.

Unattended Children after Closing Time

The library staff is not responsible for unaccompanied children at closing and is unable to provide transportation. Parents or guardians of children left unattended in the library are responsible for being aware of the library's hours of operation and should also keep in mind that the library may close unexpectedly (e.g., loss of power , inclement weather, staff illness) and prepare their children with alternative transportation arrangements should this occur. The library staff will comply with the following procedures for unattended children at closing:

- If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the authorities will be notified
- If no ride has arrived within 15 minutes after closing time the staff will call the Stow Police Department and at least one staff member will wait for the police with the child.
- Once the police arrive, a staff member and the police will wait an additional 15 minutes with the child for a parent or guardian to arrive. After the allotted 15 minutes, if no parent or guardian has arrived, the police will take the child to the Stow Police Station to await pick-up.
- Staff will record the parent's/guardian's name, address, telephone number, and the child's name.
- Once found, the parent/guardian will be given a copy of the Child Safety Policy.
- Staff will refer any additional incidents to the Police Department. Violation of the Child Safety Policy may result in a suspension of library privileges for the family.

Adopted on June 11, 2014

Updated on August 10, 2021