

Amagansett Library Unattended Children Policy

Amagansett Free Library welcomes all children and their families to use its facilities, resources, and services. Responsibility for children using the Library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for the safety, behavior, and comfort of unattended children. Staff cannot be expected to monitor or prevent an unattended child from leaving a library space, building, or grounds.

Children aged 9 and younger must be attended and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver aged 16 or older at all times. Library staff observing unattended children will make reasonable efforts to locate the adult responsible for the child's presence in the library. If no responsible adult can be reached, staff will notify the police.

Children aged 10 or older may use the library unattended provided they are able to maintain proper library behavior in accordance with the library's policies. Children aged 10 or older who are disruptive and/or violate library policies may be asked to leave the library.

If a child of any age remains at the library at closing time, library staff will make every reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian/caregiver. If a child is not picked up within 10 minutes of library closing, staff will notify the police. Library employees are not permitted to drive a child to another destination, nor to leave a child alone outside the library's front door.

If, in the judgment of the staff, an unsupervised child's conduct, age or maturity level or the conduct or age of those with or responsible for the child, exposes the child or others to risk, disrupts the operation of the library, violates any library policies, or requires continual staff intervention, then the staff will require that such child leave the library– unless, in the judgment of the staff, the child cannot safely leave the premises without adult supervision due to age, capacity, time of day, or other circumstance. In such an event, the staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian or caregiver and request the child's removal from the library. If a parent/guardian or caregiver is unavailable then proper authorities will be notified.

Approved May 31, 2019

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