Monmouth County Library

LIBRARY POLICY FOR UNATTENDED CHILDREN

Adopted by Monmouth County Library Commission, April 22, 2003

The Monmouth County Library System welcomes children of all ages. We strive to be a doorway through which a life-long interest in learning and reading takes place. The public library is, however, just that, a public building. As such, anybody can come into it, law-abiding or otherwise. Leaving a child unattended may result in violation of N.J.S.A. 2A:53A-14, 15, liability of parent or guardian for negligence.

1. Children ten to thirteen years of age shall not be left unattended on Library grounds. Attended is defined as a parent, guardian, or adult caregiver being present in the building but not necessarily with direct supervision of the child.

2. Children nine years of age and younger must be under the direct supervision of parent or guardian when in the Library, which means that the child must remain within view at all times during the entire Library visit.

3. Parents or guardians are responsible for the conduct of minor children under 18 years of age in the Library or on Library grounds.

4. Library staff is authorized to contact police in the event the parent or guardian fails to comply with these regulations or leaves a child unattended at closing.

5. Exceptions to this policy occur when programming requires children to attend on their own. At these times, children should be brought to the activity prior to the program and be met outside the door of the activity room at its conclusion.

6. It is essential for the safety of all children that they be picked up prior to the Library’s closing time. Police will be informed of children left unattended after closing. Police will contact the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS).

7. Guardian is defined as an individual 18 years of age and older possessed with the ability to assume responsibility for behavior of children.