

Policy: 401

Subject: Child Safety and Well-being

Adopted 2/22/1994

Reviewed: 11/14/2022

Approved: 12/12/2022

The AHPL welcomes children, and is dedicated to providing materials and services for all patrons in a safe environment. However, we cannot accept responsibility for unattended children on Library premises and thus, parents and caregivers are responsible for the safety of their children.

Children age ten and older may be left on their own to use the Library and attend programs provided they adhere to Library Code of Conduct. Children age seven to nine must have a parent or a responsible caregiver with them in the building. Children age four to six need to be on the same floor of the building as their parent or a responsible caregiver unless the children are attending a supervised Library program. Children age three and under need to be within sight of a parent or a responsible caregiver at all times while using the Library. The extent to which these policy guidelines will be enforced will be determined by the individual child's behavior and considerations for the child's safety or well-being based on the observations of Library staff.

Children of any age using the Library by themselves should be picked up at least ten minutes before closing. If a minor has not been picked up by the time the Library has closed, two Library staff may, at their discretion, wait outside with the child until ten minutes after closing, after which the Police Department will be contacted. If staff members are unable to wait or feel that the situation merits public safety attention immediately, the Police Department can be contacted at any point after the Library closes.