



UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

At Beacon Falls Public Library, we want to create a safe and enjoyable environment for all our visitors, including children of all ages. To ensure the well-being and comfort of children, we have adopted this policy following Connecticut State Law.

1. Welcome to the Library:

- We warmly welcome children to explore our facilities, programs, and collections.

2. Responsible Caregivers:

- Caregivers are required to accompany their children during their visit to the library.
- Caregivers must provide appropriate supervision, considering their children's ages, capabilities, and levels of responsibility.

3. Unattended Children:

- Children under twelve must be supervised in the library premises at any time.
- The designated caregiver must stay close to the child, ensuring visual contact and immediate accessibility.
- The primary responsibility for the safety and conduct of children within the library lies with the parent or caregiver, not the library staff.

4. Safety Measures:

- The safety and security of unattended children are of utmost importance.
- If Library staff discovers children without a caregiver, they will make reasonable efforts to locate the responsible individual within the library.
- If these efforts prove unsuccessful, the Beacon Falls Police Department will be notified.

5. Closing Time:

- At closing time, children under twelve who are still without a caregiver will be identified by Library staff.
- If no responsible individual can be found, the Beacon Falls Police Department will be contacted promptly.

6. Program Participation:

- During events requiring supervision, caregivers must remain with their child for the duration of the program.
- Caregivers are responsible for ensuring the prompt pick up of their child after programs facilitated by library staff.

7. Connecticut State Law:

- Caregivers should also be aware of Connecticut General Statute 939, section 53-21a, which pertains to "leaving a child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation" and is the basis for this policy.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all Beacon Falls Public Library visitors.

Approved by the Board of Trustees of the Beacon Falls Public Library on 09/26/2023