

*This policy has been temporarily superseded in regards to the minimum age at which children can be unattended in the library.
Please refer to our **Pandemic Policy and Plan** for more information*

OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY

Unattended Children Policy

The Ossining Public Library welcomes children of all ages, and encourages them to make use of the resources that the library has to offer. The library staff strives to ensure that the library is operated in a safe manner. The objective reality, however, is that the library is open to the public and may present hazards for unattended children. The responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children in the library and on library property rests with the children's parents, guardian or other responsible caregiver. The library and its staff are not responsible for the care, safety and behavior of children in the library or on library property or for any consequences resulting from the children being in the library or on library property.

Children under the age of ten must be accompanied and supervised continually by a parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver who is able to attend to the children's care and safety and ensure appropriate behavior. A parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver must remain with the child at all times, unless the child is attending a program exclusively for children. During the program the parent, guardian or caregiver must remain in the building. If an unaccompanied child under the age of ten is found in the library, the library staff will attempt to locate his/her parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver in the library. If the parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver cannot be found, the police may be contacted. Library staff will not provide transportation for children left unaccompanied in the library.

If an unaccompanied child aged ten or older is asked to leave the library due to violations of Library policies, rules, regulations, or directives or an unexpected library closing, the library staff will attempt to locate his/her parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver. If the parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver cannot be found, the police may be contacted. Library staff will not provide transportation for children left unaccompanied in the library.

All children in the library must follow the library's rules and are expected to use the library in a manner that does not interfere with its purpose or other patrons' use of the library. Children whose behavior is disruptive may be asked to leave the library and may have their library privileges suspended.

The library staff will not provide food (unless as part of a library program), transportation or money to children. They will not take responsibility for a child in the event of a medical emergency.

The library sometimes does not open as scheduled, or closes without advance notice, due to weather or other emergencies. Parents or guardians may not receive notice of an

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unexpected closure. However, parents or guardians of unattended children must be aware that the library staff will not be responsible for unattended children. The library staff will call the police in the case of an unaccompanied minor who cannot leave on their own in the event of an emergency closure.

Violations of this policy may result in a loss of library privileges.

*Adopted May 19, 2008 by the Ossining Public Library Board of Trustees
Second Reading and Approval by the Board of Trustees: March 24, 2014*

Approved by the Board of Trustees, May 20, 2019