

## UNATTENDED CHILDREN

The Library Board and staff of the Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library (Library) welcome children to visit the Library and discover the many resources and opportunities available to them. At the same time, staff members are concerned about the safety and well-being of children who are left unattended. The Library does not assume responsibility for the supervision or care of children while they are on Library property.

*Children seven years old and younger must be accompanied at all times by an adult or an adolescent at least 12 years of age while on Library premises or property, including the Bookmobile. If a child age seven and younger is attending a Library program where attendance by an adult or adolescent at least 12 years of age is not required, the adult or adolescent at least 12 years of age must stay in the Library during the program.*

Children who are eight years old and older may visit the Library by themselves and are expected to behave according to the [Library Behavior Policy](#). Library staff members will intervene whenever they believe there is an inappropriate situation or behavior.

The Library is committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for all visitors. All patrons must comply with the Unattended Children Policy and the Patron Behavior Policy. Failure to do so may result in staff asking the individual to leave the Library premises.

The Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended at the Library after hours. Unattended children younger than 12 years of age present at the Library 15 minutes before the Library closes will be asked to contact a parent to pick them up. If a parent/caregiver has not picked up the child within 15 minutes after the Library has closed, the Library staff will call the non-emergency number of the local police.

Parents/Caregivers dropping off children outside the Library should first ensure that the Library is open. The Library is not necessarily open to the public when there are lights on in the building.

It is the responsibility of the parent/caregiver to monitor children in all areas of the Library.

Parents/Caregivers attending meetings on Library property, whether sponsored by an outside group or the Library, are responsible for any children they bring with them and are expected to abide by this policy.

Parents/Caregivers who bring or allow others to bring minor children under the age of 18 onto Library property shall be solely responsible for the care and safety of the children while on Library property.

Approved and adopted by the Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library Board on November 9, 2001; revised 11/17/03; 5/15/06; 6/19/08; 6/17/10; 11/15/12; 11/10/14; 8/18/16; 8/16/18; 2/17/22; 4/16/26.