

Moffat Library of Washingtonville Unattended Children/Minors Policy

Philosophy:

The Moffat Library of Washingtonville is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment that encourages visitors of all ages to visit the Library, use Library collections and services, and attend Library programs. Library staff are trained to provide public library services; and Library staff are available to assist and support children with their use of Library resources. However, the Library is not equipped, nor is it the Library's role, to provide long or short-term child care.

Regulation:

For the purposes of this document, unless otherwise specified, "children" or "minor" is defined as any person(s) under the age of eighteen (18) years of age.

For the safety and comfort of all, all children ten (10) years and under using the Moffat Library must be accompanied by an adult guardian at all times while they are using the Library or while they are on Library premises. In addition, parent/guardians/caregivers are asked to remain in the immediate vicinity of their children using the Library and maintain eye contact. While children are in the Library or on Library premises, parents/guardians/caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of their children.

Any unaccompanied minor between the ages of eleven (11) and seventeen (17) must show a valid Moffat Library card and school or other NYS-issued photo ID and sign in at the Circulation Desk to use the library facility, library grounds or any library services. Parents or guardians who wish to allow their child (between the ages of eleven and seventeen) use of the Moffat Library unaccompanied must apply for a Moffat Library card for their child.

Unattended children are children of any age who are apparently unaccompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver in the Library. The Library is not responsible for children who are left unattended on Library premises. The Library is not responsible for incidents, accidents, or other liabilities arising from the actions of unattended children.

Parents/guardians/caregivers are solely responsible for the safety and behavior of their children. They are advised that children, like all Library users, are expected to comply with the Library's *Rules of Behavior for Use of Library Facilities, Electronic Communication Devices*, and *Children's Programs Policy* and a child who violates those rules may be asked to leave Library premises.

Parents/guardians/caregivers must inform themselves as to scheduled Library closing times and be aware that a Library facility sometimes may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies or safety issues. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians/caregivers to let their children know what they should do if they must leave the Library. The Library is not

responsible if children leave Library property unattended.

Library staff may call the police or other appropriate agency if a child is left unattended when a Library facility closes or if a child otherwise appears to be at risk. Library employees are not permitted to transport any patrons away from Library facilities.

Please see the Library's *Rules of Behavior For Use of Library Facilities Policy*, *Electronic Communication Devices Policy*, and *Children's Programs Policy* for full regulations on Library use.

Library Programs And Children:

- Participants must abide by the Library's *Children's Programs Policy* to take part in any Library-sponsored children's programs.
- Parents/guardians/caregivers must remain within the Library building while children attend Library-sponsored programs.
- Children's programs for ages 6 and younger require a parent/guardian/caregiver to stay with the child at all times to ensure appropriate behavior and safety.
- The Library reserves the right to deny attendance to anyone becoming disruptive to attendees or the program facilitator.
- Anyone who does not comply with these regulations may be restricted from attending Library-sponsored programs.
- Please see *Children's Programs Policy* for full guidelines.

The Board of Trustees of Moffat Library
Adopted on 7/23/15
Revised on 12/28/17