

Harlowton Public Library Unattended Dependent Persons/Child Safety Policy

Children

The Harlowton Public Library offers a welcoming space for children and families to explore its resources. Library staff strives to provide a safe environment, but safety cannot be guaranteed. While the Harlowton Public Library staff is committed to helping children with activities and materials at the library, our staff does not act as child care providers or disciplinarians.

The Harlowton Public Library is not designed or licensed to provide childcare. Library staff are not responsible for the supervision of children, but will intervene if aware of a problem. Therefore, in order to create an environment of safety and maintain an atmosphere where patrons can enjoy all that the library offers:

- Parents and guardians are responsible for the supervision, safety, welfare, actions and behavior of their children while they are in the library and on library property.
- A responsible adult or caregiver aged 16 or older must directly supervise children 7 years old and younger at all times throughout the library, including the Kids' Cabin.
- If a child under the age of 7 is left unattended, staff will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver informing them of library policy prohibiting this. If the parent or caregiver cannot be located in the building, library staff will contact law enforcement personnel to pick up the child.
- If a child is repeatedly left unsupervised and behaves in a way contrary to the Patron Behavior Policy, parents will be notified that their child is no longer permitted to use the library unattended.
- Library staff cannot be responsible for children interacting with or leaving with persons who are not the appropriate chaperone. The library cannot assume responsibility for children who leave the library premises.
- Disruptive children will be given one verbal warning before they are asked to return to their parent or guardian and/or leave the building for a designated time.

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