



**August 25, 2021**

**Please review the Hartland Public Library's Child Accompaniment Policy which has been adjusted to reflect safety concerns during the current Covid-19 pandemic. \*\*Children who are 13 and under must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult while inside the library building.**

## **2j: Child Accompaniment**

This policy has been adopted in order to protect the safety of children in the library and the rights of everyone to enjoy the library. \*\*This policy has been adjusted to reflect safety concerns during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

In general, parents should not view the library as an alternative to daycare or afterschool care. Staff are not in the position to supervise children except when attending scheduled library programs. Understand that the library does not act *in loco parentis* (in place of the parent), which is the standard held in the public schools.

1. The library cannot guarantee the safety of, or assume responsibility for, a child of any age who is unattended at the library.
2. Parents or the guardians will be held responsible for all liability for personal injury and damage done by their children to the library materials, equipment or building.
3. Children aged 13 or younger must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible adult at all times. A responsible adult means someone over the age of 16 who is taking an active role in attending to the younger child.  
Children aged 14 or older may use the library unattended provided their behavior does not interfere with others' rights to enjoy the library and adheres to the library's behavior policy (see section 2, number ii). Children who behave in a disruptive manner will be told to leave the library. If a child in this age group is not able to leave the library without an adult, he/she should not be in the library alone.
4. Continued inappropriate behavior will result in additional and long term restrictions from the library at the discretion of the Library Director.

All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency or in the event that the library would have to close suddenly.

Children must be picked up promptly at closing time. A staff member will stay with any child under the age of 16 who is not picked up at closing. After 15 minutes, staff will contact the constable or other law enforcement personnel. Staff will be compensated for time spent with an unattended child after hours at their normal rate of pay.

Thank you,  
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