



# **Hartland Public Library**

## **Behavior and Child Accompaniment Policies**

### 2:ii Patron Behavior Policy

The Hartland Public Library will be a place where the staff and the public feel safe and secure. This policy is designed to provide clear and reasonable guidelines governing patron behavior within the Library and on the Library premises.

Unacceptable behavior includes behavior within the library or on library premises that interferes with the use of the library by other patrons, creates a risk of injury to other patrons or library personnel, interferes with the work of library personnel, or creates a risk of damage to library property.

These rules apply to all patrons of the library regardless of age.

1. Show mutual respect for everyone in the library.
2. Allow others to use the library in peace. Loud, boisterous behavior is not acceptable. Profanity, abusive or threatening language is not acceptable. Threatening gestures or unwanted physical contact is not acceptable.
3. Treat library materials and other library property with care.
4. Neither the library nor its staff is responsible for patrons' personal belongings left unattended.
5. Cell phone use is limited to the foyer.
6. Appropriate attire, including shirts and shoes, must be worn at all times.
7. Eating and drinking is limited to the lobby and downstairs meeting room. Eating and drinking in other areas of the library are with Director's permission only. Smoking, vaping, and the use of alcohol are prohibited.
8. Improper acts that are subject to prosecution under criminal or civil codes of law are prohibited.
9. Violations may result in the person being told to leave.

## Hartland Public Library Mandatory Mask Policy

“Masks are required to enter the Hartland Public Library building. If a patron doesn't have a mask, the Library can provide curbside pickup.”

Approved the the Hartland Public Library  
Board of Trustees - July 21, 2020

## Unattended Child Policy

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.

Policy reviewed and approved by the Hartland Library Board of Trustees  
August 24, 2021

Thank you,

Nancy Tusinski, Library Director  
802-436-2473  
director@hartlandlibraryvt.org