



## **Unattended Children Policy**

### **Purpose**

The Granby Public Libraries provides a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the Library, attend programs, and use the Library's collection and resources. It remains the caregiver's responsibility to ensure the safety of the children in their care in these public spaces.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all caregivers overseeing children using the library. For the purpose of this policy, a caregiver is defined as any responsible person aged 12 and older who provides direct care and supervision to a child under the age of 12.

### **Patron Responsibility**

The final responsibility for the health, safety, well-being and behavior of children in the library rests with the parent or caregiver and not with library personnel. Parents should be sure their children, whether accompanied or alone, understand and abide by the policies of the library including the Library's Patron Code of Conduct.

- Caregivers must provide appropriate supervision based on the abilities and the levels of responsibility of the children in their care.
- No child under age 12 may be left alone in the Library for any reason.
  - An exception will be made for children under age 12 who are enrolled in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and are participating in Library events, activities or volunteering.
  - If a child is unable to leave the library without an adult, they should not be in the library alone.
- Children up to age 8 must have a caregiver in the immediate vicinity of, and in visual contact, with the child.
- Children aged 8-11 may explore the Library independently, but the caregiver must remain in the building.
- Caregivers should be aware of the Library's opening and closing times and arrange to meet and transport children at appropriate times.
- The Library is not responsible for children who are awaiting transportation or socializing outside of the building.

### **Procedures**

- To ensure safety, the Granby Police Department may be called if a child under 12 has not been picked up by Library closing time.

### **References**

**CT General Statutes Sec. 53-21a. Leaving a child unsupervised in place of public accommodation or motor vehicle. Failure to report disappearance of a child.**

(a) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public

accommodation or a motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

(c) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle between the hours of eight o'clock p.m. and six o'clock a.m. for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class C felony.

*Adopted by Granby Library Board- December 9, 2024*