



# Unattended Children Policy

## PHILOSOPHY

The Grafton-Midview Public Library welcomes individuals of all ages to use its facility, services, and resources. The Library is committed to the well-being of all library patrons, including children.

## POLICY

This policy intends to guide the public on instances of unattended or disruptive children in the Library.

The Grafton-Midview Public Library is open to the public. To ensure the safety and well-being of children in the Library and to maintain an atmosphere of constructive library use throughout the building, the responsibility for the welfare and behavior of children using the Library rests with the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver.

Library staff does not monitor the interaction of patrons, including children. Though staff will respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when unattended. The Library defines *unattended children* as eight (8) years and under without close supervision, even though a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver may be in the building.

The Library defines a *responsible caregiver* as twelve (12) years or older who acknowledges responsibility for the children. Children eight (8) years and under are to be in sight of and supervised, at all times, by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. We expect parents/guardians or caregivers to remain in the Library while children attend programs. Children nine (9) years of age and older who can maintain proper library behavior may use the Library unattended; otherwise, they should have supervision by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver.

Staff may notify parents, guardians, or responsible caregivers whose children need additional supervision. Staff may also contact the police to enforce proper library conduct. At closing, staff will make a reasonable effort to ensure children leave the Library safely. Staff may contact the Grafton Village Police Department to provide safe transport.

Approved by GMPL Board of Trustees on November 14, 2023