



Hollis Social Library • 2 Monument Square • Hollis, NH 03049  
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## Hollis Social Library: Unattended Children Policy

For the particular safety of minor children and the enjoyment of all visitors using the Library we have developed a specific policy regarding unattended children. Parents are reminded, however, that they or their designated caregivers, not Library staff, are responsible for the actions and safety of the children in their care while visiting the Library.

1. The Hollis Social Library and its staff do not assume responsibility for any child left unattended in the Library.
2. The Library adheres to the below:

Children Ages 0-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May <u>not</u> be left unattended in the Library.</li><li>• A parent, legal guardian, or designated caregiver over the age of 16 must be present with the child at all times.</li></ul>
Children Ages 11+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May be on their own in the Library and are treated as adult users.</li><li>• However, they are legally the responsibility of their parents and must know how to reach a parent or legal guardian should the need arise.</li></ul>

3. All Library visitors are subject to the Library Use and Behavior Policy concerning disruptive behavior. Parents are responsible for the behavior of minor children at all times, even if they are not in the Library with the child. Library staff does not serve *in loco parentis*, i.e. in place of the parent or legal guardian.
  - a. Any child age 10, or under, who is being disruptive will be asked by Library staff to behave. If the child's behavior continues, the parents will be told that their child is disturbing others and will be asked to control the child. If they refuse, or are unable to control the child, the family may be asked to leave.
  - b. Disruptive children over age 10 will be given only one warning and informed that they will be asked to leave if the disruptive behavior continues. Staff will follow through to ensure that the child does leave the building. If the child's behavior is deemed dangerous or they refuse to leave, the Hollis Police Department will be called.
4. If a child is left at the Library without a way home 30 minutes prior to closing time, Library staff may contact the child's parent using information provided by the child, the cardholder database, or the telephone

directory. If contacted, the parent will be told that their child must be picked up immediately. If the parent cannot be located, or if a parent has not picked up the child within the 30 minutes, the Library staff will contact the Hollis Police Department to take custody of the child.

5. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the Library or provide any transportation. No individual staff person is to be left alone in the Library or on Library property with a child after closing.

This policy will be reviewed and revised by the Hollis Social Library Board of Trustees as needed.

Approved: January 6, 2003

Reviewed/Revised: October 12, 2004, October 4, 2011; February 4, 2014; March 4, 2014; May 14, 2019, September 12, 2022

Reviewed by Legal Counsel: August 2022