

## **SOMERS PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY**

### **UNATTENDED CHILDREN**

Adopted, Board of Directors, 11/18/91  
Amended 10/6/97; 12/03/01, 4/3/17

**POLICY STATEMENT:** Parents may not leave children under the age of twelve unattended in the library.\* Parents or caregivers are responsible for their children's behavior in the library. Parents or caregivers must remain in the building during preschool storytimes. The library staff is not responsible for the safety, care, or supervision of children of any age, whether in the library or on library premises.

#### **IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE CHILD IS UNATTENDED:**

1. The staff member should bring the child to the Children's Librarian, or Children's Assistant or Circulation Supervisor in her absence.
2. The staff person should attempt to identify the child and attempt to locate the parent(s) or guardian by walking around the library with the child.
3. When the parent or guardian is located, explain firmly the policy on unattended children.
4. If unable to locate the parent or guardian within the library, the staff member will attempt to contact the parent or guardian by telephone either at their home or work place.
5. If the parent or guardian of the child has not been located within an hour or by closing time, the police department will be called to bring the child to the police station to search for the parents. Under NO circumstances will the staff member take a child out of the library.

#### **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS:**

Parents should not direct their children to the library in the event of emergency school closings in that the same conditions that have caused a school closing may also effect library operations.

\*Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
53-21a Leaving child unsupervised in place of public  
accommodation