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5.14 Safe Child Policy

(See also Conduct in the Library Policy)

The library is a public building and all patrons, including minors, are welcome. However, at no time will the library assume the responsibility of surrogate care provider for children in the library. All children under the age of six (6) years of age must have a parent or caregiver present in the library at all times. A caregiver is defined as someone twelve (12) years of age or older who has the mental and physical capacity to care for the child should an emergency arise. Children between the ages of six and eight (6 and 8) should not be left unattended for more than half an hour (30 minutes).

In the event a child under six (6) years of age is left unattended or a child between the ages of six and eight (6 and 8) years is left unattended for more than half an hour (30 minutes), the staff may attempt to contact a parent, guardian, or other care giver. If a parent, guardian, or care giver cannot be located within half an hour (30 minutes), the Emmetsburg Police Department may be called, and the child will be given into their custody.

If unattended children are left at the library for more than fifteen minutes after normal or weather-related library closings where the Smith Wellness Center has also closed for the day, the Emmetsburg Police Department may be called, and the child will be given into their custody.

Adopted: May 2011

Reviewed: May 2014; May 2017; July 2020

Amended: March 2023

Scheduled for Review: March 2026