

7.18 UNATTENDED CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS

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The Hudson Area Public Library is a welcome place for children. They are encouraged to read, to explore various electronic formats, to attend programs, and to make full use of the Library's resources. For the safety of minor children, and the enjoyment of all patrons using the Library, the Library abides by the following policy regarding unattended children. If you have questions regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to ask staff to explain

1. Library personnel cannot be responsible for children or vulnerable adults left unattended at the library, and assume no legal responsibility for unattended children and / or vulnerable adults.
2. The Library does not provide care of supervision of children or vulnerable adults, except to the extent necessary to uphold the Library's Code of Conduct. Parents and /or caregivers are responsible for their child's behavior at all times.
3. Children eight and under must be accompanied by a parent or responsible caregiver, who must be at least 16-years old, at all times.
4. Similarly, it is vital to the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults that they not be left alone in the library. A vulnerable adult is defined as "any adult who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs his or her ability to care for his or her needs...."
5. Unattended children under the age of 16 must be picked up at least 15 minutes before closing time, unless attending a Library sponsored program.
6. The library reserves the right to call the Hudson Police department in cases of disruptive behavior of unattended children. If a child remains at the library after closing time, a staff member will attempt to call the parent or legal guardian by telephone. If the responsible party cannot be reached or cannot come immediately to the library, the Hudson Police will be notified to pick up the child.
7. *Under no circumstances will a staff member drive a child or vulnerable adult home or to any other destination.*
8. A Hudson Area Public Library incident report is to be filed for unattended children and vulnerable adults left at the library.

