

# SAFE CHILD POLICY

Madison Heights Public Library.

Effective: DRAFT.

Supersedes: Safe Child Policy, 2013. Unattended Children & Disruptive Behavior Policy, 2013.

## PURPOSE:

Madison Heights Public Library ensures the safety and well-being of children by providing guidelines for their supervision while using library services and facilities.

## RULES & REGULATIONS:

1. Responsibility:
  - a. Parents and caregivers are solely responsible for the safety, behavior, and supervision of their children in the library. Even when not physically present, parents and caregivers are legally responsible for their child's behavior.
  - b. Library staff are responsible for enforcing this policy and all library policies. Library staff cannot and will not assume responsibility for any child on library property, or after a child has exited library property.
2. Supervision of Children Under 12:
  - a. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible caregiver (parent, guardian, teacher, or assigned caregiver who is at least 16 years old) at all times while using the library's resources or participating in library programs.
  - b. The responsible caregiver must remain near the child in the library for the duration of the visit to prevent accidents and ensure proper behavior.
  - c. If a child is left unattended, and an attempt to locate the responsible caregiver is unsuccessful, staff may contact the Madison Heights Police and leave the child in police custody.
3. Unattended Children aged 12 and older:
  - a. Children aged 12 years and older are permitted to use the library unattended for a reasonable period, provided they adhere to all library policies.
  - b. Children must have the telephone numbers of a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult available in case of emergencies or special circumstances.
4. Behavior and Conduct:
  - a. Children must follow all library policies. Notification of violations will be addressed to the responsible caregiver if they are next to the child. If the caregiver is not next to the child, staff will address the child directly.
  - b. Caregivers and/or the child will be given standard warnings by library staff. Continued unacceptable behavior may result in being told to leave the library.
5. Library Hours and Closing Time:
  - a. Caregivers must maintain awareness of the library's hours of operation and ensure that children are picked up before closing time.
6. Consequences of Policy Violation:

- a. Violations of this policy may result in suspension of library privileges for the family, and/or leaving the child in police custody.