

# Unattended Children Policy

The Library is a public building available for the use by all residents of Massachusetts. However, responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the Library rests solely with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) ("Parent"). Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when they are left unattended. Furthermore, the staff cannot know if children are entering or leaving the Library with their parents or strangers.

For the protection and well-being of children who enjoy the Library, the following policy has been established:

- The Thayer Memorial Library assumes no responsibility for children of any age left unattended at the Library.
- Children age ten years or younger, must be attended and adequately supervised by a Parent.
- At the discretion of a Parent, children ages eleven to fourteen years may use the Library unattended, subject to other rules and regulations in effect by the Thayer Memorial Library concerning behavior, conduct and demeanor, for a period of time not to exceed 3 hours.
- All children, regardless of age, will be required to comply with the Library's policies on conduct and behavior while at the Library. If you have any questions about these policies, please ask a staff member.
- The Library staff is not responsible for supervising children left alone when the Library is closed.
- Library personnel reserve the right to contact the Lancaster Police Department when coping with unattended children.

Parents should be familiar with the Library's hours of operation and should not leave children unattended before opening or after closing. Also, close attention must be paid to unexpected closings (storms, power outages, etc.). Prior arrangements and contingency plans for immediate pick-up should be discussed with the child.