



Young Patron Conduct

The Hampshire County Public Library is a public facility that offers services to a wide range of citizens, and children are especially welcome. The library has the responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is appropriately using its services and facilities. Youth are expected to adhere to the same standards of patron conduct expected of adults. Parents, guardians, or assigned chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their children while in the library.

Children under the age of 10 should never be left unsupervised in any area of the library. If a parent cannot be located within five minutes, the unattended child will be taken to the office and staff will call the police to report an abandoned child.

Youth who are disruptive or misbehaving will be asked to leave the library; see policy on patron conduct for definitions of misbehavior. If the child cannot safely leave the library to return home on his or her own, staff will place the child under close supervision until a parent can be contacted or will contact the police, depending on the severity of the situation.

Youth over the age of 10 will be asked about transportation approximately 15 minutes prior to the library's closing. Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be given the opportunity to call a parent or other responsible adult. Children who have not been picked up within fifteen minutes after closing will be left in the care of the police. Under no circumstances will staff transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.