

DENNIS P. McHUGH PIERMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

**POLICY ON USE OF THE LIBRARY BY CHILDREN**

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2/4/09, REVISED 11/02/11 REVISED 07/10/19

**1. ALL CHILDREN AGE 11 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT, GUARDIAN OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE CAREGIVER.**

The library assumes no responsibility for an unattended child. The parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver must stay with the child and monitor the child's behavior, unless the child is participating in a library program that does not require parental supervision.

**2. SELF-SUPERVISED YOUTH AGE 12 AND UP ARE WELCOME TO USE THE LIBRARY AS LONG AS THEIR BEHAVIOR IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIBRARY'S PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT.**

The library is a public building. It is not a controlled environment such as a school or daycare facility. For safety's sake, parents should make sure that their children are sufficiently mature before allowing them to visit the library without a parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver.

**3. DISRUPTIVE CHILDREN, ATTENDED OR UNATTENDED, AGE 12 OR OLDER MAY BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE PREMISES IF THEY FAIL TO CORRECT THEIR BEHAVIOR AFTER A WARNING.**

For the sake of all library patrons and staff, disruptive behavior cannot be tolerated. Disruptive children will be given a warning after which it is up to the discretion of staff whether to require the children to leave the premises.

**4. PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR CHILDREN AT THE LIBRARY, WHETHER OR NOT THE PARENT IS PRESENT.**

**5. CHILDREN, LIKE ALL LIBRARY PATRONS, MUST LEAVE THE LIBRARY AT CLOSING TIME. IF A CHILD CANNOT GET HOME ALONE, THE PARENT, GUARDIAN OR RESPONSIBLE CAREGIVER MUST ARRANGE TO PICK UP THE CHILD BY CLOSING TIME.**

Children left alone after the library has closed are placed in a vulnerable position. If a child is left at the library without a way home at closing time, library staff may call the child's home or parent's place of business using information provided by the child or the patron database. If contacted, the parent will be told that their child must be picked up immediately. If a parent cannot be contacted, or if a parent has not picked up the child right away, the library staff will contact local police to assist the child. Under no circumstances will a staff member be responsible for taking a child home after hours, not waiting with the child after hours.