

**PARENTS NEED TO BE AWARE THAT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AS AN INSTITUTION DOES NOT HAVE THE LEGAL “PROVISION OF CARE” RESPONSIBILITIES.**

The New Rochelle Public Library welcomes children to use its facilities, resources and services. However, responsibility for the safety and security of children using the Library does not rest with library personnel, it rests with the parents, guardians or assigned chaperones (of the age of 14 or above) of those children (the “Responsible Persons” for children using the Library).

Parents and other caregivers should bear in mind that the Library is a public space, open to all who choose to enter, and the Library is not the guarantor of the safety of the children who use our facilities. Please do not ask Library staff to supervise your child so that you may leave the area or leave the building. Your child’s safety is a very important issue to us here at the Library, as it is to you. Working together we can create effective safety standards that will ensure our children’s utmost protection.

Parents or adult caregivers should monitor all activities and behavior of their children while they are in the Library. The Library staff person in charge will request that a child leave the premises if the Library Rules of conduct are not followed.

Children may use the Library unattended subject to policies adopted by the Library Board concerning behavior.

Children must be accompanied and supervised by a Responsible Person, as defined above, who assumes responsibility for him or her.

Disruptive children may, if necessary, be asked to leave the Library.

In the event of an emergency which forces the immediate closing of the Library, children should know what procedure to follow as determined by their Responsible Persons, as defined above.

If a child wishes to leave the Library, the Library staff cannot legally detain him or her.

**PROCEDURES OF UNATTENDED CHILDREN.**

Unattended children are placed in the care of a Children’s Services librarian, who will attempt to locate the child’s Responsible Person, as defined above.

If a minor or anyone under the age of 18 is left at the Library at closing time and in the event of an emergency situation, Library staff will attempt to contact the parents, adult caregivers or other Responsible Person, as defined above. If the parents, adult caregivers or other Responsible Persons cannot be contacted, the Library staff will immediately notify the police.

The Library staff cannot take legal responsibility for an unattended child in the case of a medical emergency.

The Library staff will not provide food, transportation or money to children.

Revised & Adopted by Board of Trustees January 2011