

Royalton Hartland Community Library

Unattended Child and Safety Policy

The Royalton Hartland Community Library strives to provide a welcoming environment that encourages children and their parents/guardians to visit, utilize resources and services, and attend library programs. For the protection and wellbeing of all patrons, including children, the library has adopted the following guidelines:

- **Parents/guardians are legally responsible for the care, safety, behavior and wellbeing of their children, ages 17 and under, even if they are not present.**
- At no time will library staff assume responsibility for the safety, behavior, or supervision of an unattended child. Children are expected to respect library property and adhere to the rules outlined in the Rules of Conduct Policy.
- Library staff are not responsible for monitoring library materials or internet content viewed or checked out by unaccompanied minors.
- If a child violates the Rules of Conduct policy, they will be asked to call an adult to come and get them. If an adult cannot be reached, the Middleport Police will be contacted for their assistance in helping the child get home safely. The library assumes no responsibility for the whereabouts, safety, or behavior of an unattended child who leaves the library on their own accord. Repeat offenses may result in loss of library privileges including access to the building being denied for a period of time.
- Library staff are not responsible for children who exit the library unaccompanied by their parent/guardian.
- It is the responsibility of a parent/guardian to make sure their child has transportation to and from the library. If a child remains in the library at the time of closing and they are unable to reach their parent/guardian by phone, staff will call the Middleport Police Department for their assistance in helping the child get home safely. Whenever the police are contacted, staff will complete an incident report.

Adopted: June 2017

Revised: January 2026