

MOUNT OLIVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

202 Flanders-Drakestown Road; Flanders, New Jersey 07836 | P: 973-691-8686 | www.mopl.org

The Mount Olive Public Library's Unattended Children in the Library Policy

The Mount Olive Public Library is a public facility that offers services to a wide range of citizens. The Library has the responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron using its services and facilities appropriately. It is our desire to make every visit enjoyable, memorable, and safe for young children.

Children of all ages are encouraged to use the Library for homework, recreational reading, and program attendance. The Library staff realizes that the Library will be noisier at busy times and that children by nature can cause more commotion. Children and young people are, however, expected to follow the same standards of patron conduct expected of adults (See ***Patron Code of Conduct Policy approved on 10-15-2016***). Parents, guardians, caregivers, or assigned chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their children while in the Library or on Library grounds. In order to insure the highest level of safety for young patrons, the Mount Olive Public Library Board of Trustees has adopted the following policy standards:

- ❖ Children ten-years-old (10) and younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, caregiver, assigned chaperone or other designated responsible person while in the Library or on Library property.
- ❖ Children seven-years-old (7) and younger may never be left unsupervised in any area of the Library.
- ❖ If a child attends a Library sponsored program, the Library requires the parent, guardian, caregiver, or chaperone to remain in the Library throughout the program.
- ❖ If a parent, guardian, caregiver, or chaperone cannot be located, the Library staff will contact the Mount Olive Township Police Department.

Disruptive Children:

The Library Staff is not expected to assume responsibility for the care of unsupervised children in the Library. Children (whether with a parent, guardian, caregiver, or chaperone or not) who are continuously disruptive will:

- ❖ Be given a warning that he/she must settle down or will be asked to leave the Library.
- ❖ Be asked to leave the Library, if after a second warning he/she continues to maintain the disruptive behavior.

MOUNT OLIVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

202 Flanders-Drakestown Road; Flanders, New Jersey 07836 | P: 973-691-8686 | www.mopl.org

- ❖ Be permitted to call a parent, guardian, caregiver, or chaperone if he/she cannot safely leave the Library to return home on his or her own, and will wait with a staff person until the parent, guardian, caregiver, or chaperone arrives.

Unattended Children at Closing Time:

- ❖ Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be given the opportunity to call a parent, guardian, caregiver, or chaperone.
- ❖ Children who have not been picked up after closing will be left in the care of the Mount Olive Township Police Department.
- ❖ Under no circumstances will any staff member transport a child or children in a vehicle or accompany a child or children home.