

Acushnet Public Library  
232 Middle Road  
Acushnet, MA 02743  
508-998-0270 [www.acupl.org](http://www.acupl.org)

## **Safe Child Policy**

### **Purpose**

The Acushnet Public Library strives to provide a safe, welcoming and inviting environment for all patrons. However, the Library is a public building, and this policy has been adopted to ensure the safety and well-being of the children who use the Library.

### **Policy**

1. Library staff members are not responsible for supervising unattended children.
2. A parent/caregiver must stay in the Library with children under the age of 10. That parent/caregiver is responsible for the behavior and safety of children in their care.
3. At the discretion of a parent/caregiver, children ages 10 and above may use the Library without supervision and will be subject to the Patron Behavior Policy (adopted by the Library Board of Trustees, 6/23/15). The child must know how to reach a parent/caregiver should the need arise, e.g. due to an unexpected building closure.
4. When leaving children unattended, a parent/caregiver must be aware of the closing times of the Library. Children must be picked up 10 minutes before the Library closes. If a parent/caregiver does not arrive by closing time, an attempt will be made to contact them. If no one can be contacted, the Acushnet Police Department will be called. Library staff will not transport children away from the Library. Two staff members will remain with the child until the police have arrived. The Library Director will be informed whenever this action becomes necessary. The Director will contact the child's parent/caregiver to explain the policy and why the action was required.
5. In the case of a medical emergency, when a parent/caregiver is not present, Library staff will call 911 and a parent/caregiver, in that order.

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees, 6/23/15