

## **Beverly Public Library Child Safety Policy**

### **Purpose**

The Beverly Public Library strives to create a warm, inviting, and safe environment for children. This policy acknowledges that in addition to the [Standards of Conduct Policy](#), there are additional considerations for patrons under the age of 18 (minors).

Parents/guardians and caregivers, not library staff, are solely responsible for the behavior and safety of minors visiting the library.

### **Unattended Children**

An unattended child is defined as a child who is in the library alone, or a child who is accompanied but not adequately supervised. Library staff do not provide childcare and are not responsible for supervising unattended children.

- Children ages 8 and younger must not be left unattended in the library. An accompanying caregiver at least 14 years of age must be in the child's immediate vicinity and provide direct supervision.
- Children ages 9 and older may use the library unattended, provided the child follows all library policies.
- Patrons who do not comply with library policies may be asked to leave the library. An unattended child will be permitted to call a parent/guardian before leaving.

### **General Rules**

- Children must be picked up before the library closes. Library staff have no obligation to remain with minors after hours if transportation has not arrived when the library closes.
- Library staff reserves the right to contact the Beverly Police to assist with safety issues involving all minors when a parent/guardian or caregiver is unavailable.
- Unattended children should have a means of contacting a parent/guardian or caregiver in the event of an emergency, including the library closing unexpectedly.
- Library staff will not transport minors from the library to any other location.

### **Appropriate Use of the Children's Room and Teen Room**

The Children's Room is reserved for children ages 0-12. The Teen Room is reserved for patrons in grades 6 through 12. Parents, caregivers, teachers, and other adults are permitted in these spaces only when accompanying minors or actively using or searching the collections.

The Children's restrooms are for the exclusive use of those using the space.

**Failure to comply with this policy may result in  
restriction or loss of library privileges.**

Approved by the Board of Trustees: December 16, 2025