



SPOTSWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

548 Main Street
Spotswood, NJ 08884
732-251-1515

www.spotslibrary.org

To read. To learn. To discover.

Policy on Unattended Children

The Spotswood Public Library is dedicated to providing an environment that is welcoming and safe for people of all ages. Parents and caregivers must be advised that The Library is a public institution open to all. The Library is not a child care provider and staff are not responsible for the supervision of patrons of any age. The Library will not act in place of a parent or guardian and assumes no responsibility for minors using the library.

1. Children under the age of 12 years must be accompanied by a caregiver (responsible adult over the age of 18) at all times while in the library. If a child under the age of 12 is attending a library program, the parent/caregiver must not leave the building for any reason.
2. Children 12 and over may be in the library without an adult. However, should disciplinary problems arise; The Library may ask the child to leave. In the event that such child does not comply, the Police Department will be requested to assist. In that event, The Library assumes no further responsibility for the child.
3. If problems arise while younger children are using the library or if they are left alone, library staff will attempt to contact their parents/guardians. If the library staff is unable to reach their parents/guardians, the Police Department will be contacted for assistance.
4. If a child under the age of 17 is waiting for a ride home from the library, and the ride has not arrived 10 minutes before closing time, the staff will call the Spotswood Police Department to ensure the safety of the child once the library closes.
5. Under no circumstances will the library assume custodial responsibility for any child left unattended, and staff will not take a child home or transport them to another location.
6. Parents and/or guardians are solely responsible for the behavior of their children using the library and their respective parents and/or guardians may be held liable for any damage they cause.
7. The Library is required by law (N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10) to notify the Division of Child Protection and Permanency in the event of suspected abuse or neglect of a minor.

Adopted by the Spotswood Public Library Board of Trustees. 19 October 2000. Revised November 16, 2000.
Addendum adopted by the Spotswood Public Library Board of Trustees. 17 January 2002. Revised September 18, 2014. Revised July 16, 2015. Revised May 2025.