

## **NEW BRITAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY**

Library staff is available to support children and families at the library, but it is not the library's function or purpose to provide supervision or care of any child while parents or other supervising adults are outside the Children's Department and/or outside the building.

No child under age 12 may be left alone in the library for any reason. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are referred to Connecticut General Statute 53-21(a) - Leaving a child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or motor vehicle:

*(a) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.*

Parents and guardians are responsible for the conduct of their children at all times while children are on library premises. Library staff members are not authorized to act in the place of parents. Children 12 and up must be able to comply with the Code of Conduct. Library staff reserves the right to require supervision for those over 12 who cannot comply with this policy.

Library staff members will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of an unattended child. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached, the child will be placed in the care of local law enforcement.

Two staff members will remain with an unattended child up to 15 minutes past closing time. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the child will be placed in the care of local law enforcement.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the New Britain Public Library's Code of Conduct.