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## POLICY

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### Juvenile Safety

The Mifflin Community Library welcomes patrons of all ages, including those under the age of 18. We are happy to provide materials, programs and services to encourage and promote literacy to the youth of our community. The responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children using the Mifflin Community Library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. Persons of any age with mental, physical or emotional disabilities which affect their ability to use the Library or render supervision otherwise necessary must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or adult caregiver at all times. The staff and/or volunteers of the library cannot accept responsibility for the safety or supervision of minors.

#### Children 10 and under

- May use the children's computer in the children's room.
- Must have a parent/guardian/caregiver age 18 years or older in attendance to supervise them at all times during their visit to the library.

#### Children 11+

- Do not need to be in the immediate presence of a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver
- May use the Library on their own provided they maintain proper library user behavior (see Code of Conduct).

If a child of 10 and under is found without a parent or caregiver, the staff will attempt to:

- Locate the parent or caregiver in the Library and explain the Child Safety Policy.
- Make every effort to contact the parent or caregiver who is not in the library to come and pick up the child. Staff will express the library's concern for the child's safety and explain the Child Safety Policy.
- Encourage an unattended child to contact the parent or guardian if it is within 15 minutes of closing time. If a parent or caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive within 15 minutes of closing, the library staff will call the Local Police to pick up the child. Staff will notify the Library Director that the police have been called.
- Remain with the child until the parent/guardian/caregiver or police arrive.
- Staff members will not, under any circumstances, transport any child from the Mifflin Community Library to another location.

Children and teens are expected to adhere to the same standards of Library user behavior expected of adults (see Code of Conduct). Parents, legal guardians, or assigned chaperones are responsible for the actions of their children, whether or not they are present. This includes any child under the age of 18. Behavior deemed inappropriate by Library staff may result in a child being asked to leave the library with the caregiver responsible for them.

Parents, guardians, and other individuals responsible for a child 16 and under shall pick up their unattended children at closing times. In addition to scheduled closing hours, the Library may also close for unexpected reasons. The Library staff will exercise appropriate procedures to ensure the safety of unattended children when the Library is closing. If no parent, legal guardian or other individual responsible for a child 16 and under is located upon Library closing, Local Police will be contacted.

Approved by the MCL Board of Directors on February 28, 2024