



Pelham Public Library  
24 Village Green  
Pelham, NH 03076  
Telephone: (603) 635-7581  
[www.pelhampubliclibrary.org](http://www.pelhampubliclibrary.org)

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## Unattended Children Policy

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

The Pelham Public Library strives to provide a safe and welcoming environment for patrons of all ages to use and enjoy the library's facilities, collections, and events. For the safety of minor children and enjoyment of all patrons using the library we have developed a specific policy regarding unattended children.

### **POLICY:**

1. The Pelham Public Library and its staff do not assume responsibility for any child left unattended in the library.
2. For the purposes of this policy the term "parent" may refer to legal guardians or other caregivers of a minor.
3. Parents should be aware that the library is a public building open to all individuals.
4. Children below grade six may not be left unattended in the library unless they are participating in a library program, and the parent must remain in the building during that time.
5. Children in grade six and above may be left unattended in the library if they follow the Behavior Policy. They must know how to reach their parent if necessary.
6. All library patrons, including children, are subject to the library's Behavior Policy. Parents are responsible for the behavior of minor children at all times, even if they are not present. The library does not serve *in loco parentis*, or in place of the parent. If a child does not follow the Behavior Policy, and the child does not respond to appropriate guidance from library staff, the child will be asked to leave the building. If appropriate, the parent will be contacted to remove the child from the library. If the parent cannot be found, library staff will contact the police.
7. Parents should be aware of the library's opening and closing hours and should make arrangements for the child to be picked up at the appropriate time. If a child is left at the library without a way home at closing time, if appropriate two library staff members will escort the child to the Pelham Police Department to wait for their ride.
8. Under no circumstances is one staff member to be alone in the library with a child after closing, or to give a child a ride home.