

X. Child Safety

RFPL welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children. However, RFPL is a public building, and, as such, may not be a safe place to leave a child unattended. RFPL does not assume responsibility for the safety of children. Such responsibility lies with the parent or guardian. Parents, guardians, and caregivers (“Chaperones”) are responsible for the safety and actions of the children whom they are supervising while those children are at RFPL. Chaperones must be age twelve or older.

- **Children ages 0 through 4 years old**

While at RFPL, children under the age of 5 years old must be within the immediate vicinity of their Chaperone, and actively supervised by their Chaperone, at all times.

- **Children ages 5 through 7 years old**

While at RFPL, children ages 5 through 7 years old must be accompanied by a Chaperone who is in the building for their entire visit. When these children attend programs, their Chaperones must remain in the building.

- **Children ages 8 years old and older**

Children 8 years of age or older may use RFPL without a Chaperone, provided they adhere to the Patron Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian or caregiver to know the hours of RFPL and to pick up their child before RFPL closes.

In the event a child under the age of 18 is still in the RFPL building 15 minutes after the Library closes to the public, Library staff will attempt to contact the child’s parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian cannot be reached or does not arrive within 30 minutes of the Library’s closing, staff will contact the River Forest police to take custody of the child. Two Library staff members will stay with the child until the parent, guardian, authorized caregiver, or police arrive. In no instance will a staff member transport a child or stay alone with a child.

The Director establishes and implements procedures to address issues affecting children while they are at RFPL.