**Allenstown Public Library**

**Unattended Child Policy**

The Library is a place where children are welcomed.  They are encouraged to read, to explore various electronic formats, to attend programs and to make full use of the library resources.

     For the safety of minor children and the enjoyment of all patrons using the library, this policy will be followed.  If you have any questions regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to ask any staff member to explain.

1.      As used in this policy, the term “caregiver” may include parents, legal guardians or other authorized persons having custody or control of a minor child *in loco parentis*.

2.     All children under the age of eight shall at all times be attended and adequately supervised by a caregiver.

3.     Children ages eight to twelve may be left unattended for no more than three hours.  The person responsible for the child must leave a telephone number with the child, where they may be contacted, or the name and telephone number of another responsible person who can transport the child home if necessary.

4.     Caregivers are responsible for the behavior of all minor children at all times, even if they are not in the library with the child.  The Library staff does not serve *in loco parentis.* If a child’s behavior is not appropriate for the library and the child does not respond to the appropriate guidance by library staff, the responsible caregiver will be contacted to remove the child from the library.  If the caregiver cannot be reached and the child’s behavior is deemed unduly disruptive or dangerous, the police will be called.

5.      Library programs:  If a child **under the age of eight** is attending the program, a caregiver must remain in the library for the duration of the program.

6.     If a child is left at the library without a way home at closing time, the Library staff will contact the Allenstown Police Department.

7.     Parent are reminded that under certain circumstances the following State Laws may apply:

RSA 169-B:41-43  Intentional Contribution to Delinquency (of a Minor);

RSA 169-B:45  Parental Responsibility for Vandalism by Minors;

RSA 169-C:3 (I) and 3 (XIX) Neglect of Children by Abandonment.