



# Wood-Ridge Memorial Library

231 Hackensack Street • Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075 • 201-438-2455

[WoodRidgeMemorialLibrary.org](http://WoodRidgeMemorialLibrary.org)

## Unattended Children

The Wood-Ridge Memorial Library has implemented the following policy for the safety and well-being of all children visiting the Library. This policy applies to the Library building and grounds, including the porch, stairs, and lawns.

We urge parents to remember that the Library is a public building, and it is not in any child's best interest to be left in the Library unattended. The Library cannot serve in loco parentis (in place of parents). **Parents are responsible for their child's safety, well-being, and behavior at the Library, to the age of 18 years.** Caregivers and attendants are to remain available for the personal and/or special needs of those entrusted to their care.

Children under the age of 12 years must remain within eyesight of an adult caregiver at all times while in the Library. If Library Staff becomes aware that a child under the age of 12 is unattended while visiting, or that they are causing problems at the Library, the Library Staff will attempt to contact that child's parents or guardians. If the Library Staff is unable to reach the parents or guardians, the Wood-Ridge Police Department will be notified.

Children 12 years of age and older may visit the Library without parental supervision, if the parent is certain that the child(ren) are mature enough to follow the **Library's Code of Conduct**. Visitors of all ages are subject to the same rules, and the same consequences apply, including but not limited to removal from the premises and/or suspension of Library privileges.

Parents are required to be at the Library no later than fifteen minutes before closing to pick up children.

Under no circumstances will the Library assume custodial responsibility for any child.

Serious and ongoing violations of Library policies may result in further action, including but not limited to suspension of Library privileges and legal measures. Such action will be taken as deemed appropriate by the Wood-Ridge Memorial Library's Director on behalf of the Board of Trustees. A written appeal of such revocation or suspension can be submitted to the Library Board of Trustees within ten days of the date of the revocation or suspension. The appeal will be reviewed and a final decision will be made by the Library Board of Trustees.

*Adopted at a public meeting of the Wood-Ridge Memorial Library Board of Trustees 12/10/2012.*

*Amended 9/14/2017.*

*Amended 1/13/2020.*

*Amended 9/14/2020.*