

Youth Conduct and Safety Policy

1. Purpose

The Colchester-East Hants Public Library (the Library) welcomes youth of all ages. Parents or guardians are responsible for the behaviour and safety of their youth at the Library. This policy outlines the responsibilities for making sure youth are safe at the Library.

2. Definitions

Caregiver: A caregiver is a person who looks after a youth for a short time instead of the parent or guardian (for example, a babysitter).

Guardian: A guardian is a person who has legal responsibility for the care and custody of a youth.

Parent: When we say "parent," we mean birth parent, adoptive parent, or foster parent.

Youth: A youth is any person who is 18 years old or younger. Youth includes babies and young children.

3. Using the Library

A parent, guardian, or caregiver must be with any **youth under the age of 8** at the Library. They must also be with any **youth who needs supervision**.

All visitors to the Library, including youth, must follow the *Library Code of Conduct*. The *Library Code of Conduct* is a guide for how to behave when you are in the Library or using library services.

Library staff will follow the *Youth Conduct and Safety Procedures* and the *Library Code of Conduct Procedures* when:

- A youth under the age of 8 is unsupervised.
- A youth is unsupervised and needs help.
- A youth is unsupervised and is not following the *Library Code of Conduct*.

4. Responsibilities

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for their children. Library staff are not responsible for youth.

a. Library Staff

Library staff are responsible for:

- Following the *Library Code of Conduct* and the *Youth Conduct and Safety Procedures* when they respond to a youth's behaviour.
- Reporting to Child Welfare Services if they find out or suspect that a youth is being abused or neglected (Library staff must follow the *Children and Family Services Act (CFSA)*).

Library staff are **not** responsible for:

- Supervising, babysitting, or monitoring the safety, well-being, or location of youth when they are in the Library.
- Monitoring how youth use library materials. This includes what books they borrow and what they look at on the computer.
- Preventing youth from leaving the Library with someone who is not an appropriate caregiver.

b. Parents/Guardians

Even if the parent or guardian is not with the youth at the Library, they are still responsible for the youth's behaviour, their well-being, and how they use the Library.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Being at the Library with children under the age of 8 and youth who need supervision, or choosing a caregiver to go with them.
- Supervising how their child uses the library resources and materials – such as what books they borrow and what sites they visit on the internet.
- Making sure they know when the Library closes so youth that are old enough to be at the Library alone will have a way to get home when it closes.

Parents or guardians may also be held responsible for any damages their youth cause to the library property or the library materials. This includes materials their youth borrow from the Library.

5. Comments/Questions

People can send their comments and questions about the Library's *Youth Conduct and Safety Policy* to the Director, Youth Services:

By email at

- JAtkinson@cehpubliclibrary.ca

By phone at

- (902) 896-4186

By regular mail at

- Director, Youth Services
Colchester-East Hants Public Library
754 Prince Street
Truro, Nova Scotia

B2N 1G9

6. Related Documents

[Children and Family Services Act \(CFSA\)](#)

Library Code of Conduct

Library Code of Conduct Procedures

Youth Conduct and Safety Procedures

Board Approval Date: November 30, 2022

Implemented: January 3, 2023

Revised: N/A

Last Review Date: N/A

Next Review Date: November 2027

Replaces: Safe Child Policy (date unknown)