

## **RICHMOND FREE LIBRARY**

### **Library Policies**

#### **Policy Regarding Minors Using the Library**

The Richmond Free Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the Library, attend programs, and use the Library collection and computers.

It is not the responsibility of library staff to supervise children's behavior (except as it interferes with library services), restrict which library resources children may access or to monitor whether children remain in the library building. Parents or caregivers are responsible for establishing and enforcing boundaries or restrictions with the children they supervise.

Youth volunteers will be supervised by staff only while they are serving their assigned volunteer hours.

- **Children through age 8** must have a parent or caregiver (caregivers must be 16 years of age or older) in the immediate vicinity. Parents remain responsible for the actions of their children in the Library.
- **Children aged 9 and over** may use the Library unattended for an amount of time appropriate to their age and maturity. Parents remain responsible for the actions of their children. Children using inappropriate behavior will be informed of the rules. If inappropriate behavior continues, the child shall be asked to leave the Library. If the child is unaccompanied, staff will contact their parent/guardian to have them picked up. All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them.
- **Children present at Closing time--** Parents, guardians, caregivers, and/or teachers are solely responsible for ensuring that children have transportation home once the Library closes. Library staff is not permitted to drive or transport children home using a personal vehicle. If there are any unattended children left in the library at closing time without transportation, staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to the Richmond Police Department.