



UNATTENDED CHILDREN & VULNERABLE MINORS (UNDER 16)

Colorado youth are an important part of the Four Mile Historic Park (FMHP) community. FMHP encourages children of all ages to visit the Park and Museum, enjoy story times and other programs, learn, ask questions, and become lifelong history and cultural advocates. Youth and their parents/guardians must respect the rights of other Park and Museum visitors and behave accordingly. FMHP staff members are not child care providers, and will not be responsible for monitoring behavior.

Public places, including parks, may not be safe places for unsupervised youth.

Parents/guardians are expected to supervise their children's visit to FMHP. FMHP cannot assume responsibility for individuals left unattended on Park and Museum premises. In order to prevent undue disruption of normal FMHP activities, provide for the general welfare of all persons using the Park and Museum and for the safety of youth visiting FMHP, the following policy has been adopted.

1. Children 11 years old or younger shall be attended and adequately supervised by a parent or other responsible person. A child under age 12 should not have the responsibility to supervise younger children.
2. Persons responsible for individuals who have special needs shall remain with them at all times.
3. If a child has been left alone; there are situations indicating problems with unattended children; or any child or vulnerable minor (under 16) is left at closing time, FMHP staff person in charge will attempt to contact the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) 15 minutes and 30 minutes after closing time. If no one has arrived to pick up the child after 30 minutes, the police

Policies are subject to change without notice. Please contact Four Mile Historic Park with any questions or concerns.

Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest Street, Denver, Colorado 80246

www.FourMileHistoricPark.org | 720-865-0800 | info@fourmilepark.org

Operated in Cooperation with the City & County of Denver.

Support provided by the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District.



will be summoned, and the child given into their care. Under no circumstances will any staff member give an unattended child a ride home in his/her own vehicle, nor will any staff member leave the Park premises until such a child has been given into the care of a parent/legal guardian, or the police.

5. Except for fire or other extreme emergency, no staff member will take a youth off of the Park premises.

Any case in which a child is in need of services because the child's parents, legal guardian, or custodian fails to take the same actions to provide supervision that a prudent parent would take is considered Child Neglect (Colorado Children's Code - Colorado Revised Statutes Title 19 Article 1 Part 103). While FMHP staff members are not mandated reporters, they are expected to report if they know of or suspect that maltreatment has occurred. Situations that should trigger enforcement of the Unattended Children & Vulnerable Minors Policy include, but are not limited to, the following:

- An unattended youth is found frightened or crying on FMHP premises
- An unattended youth is perceived to be endangering him/herself
- Another person on FMHP premises poses a perceived threat to the unattended child
- An unattended youth is disruptive to other FMHP visitors or staff
- An unattended child is 11 years old or younger
- An unattended child/vulnerable youth has not been met by a responsible adult at closing time

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Definitions

Unattended child: Any child, age 11 or younger, who is left without a parent or responsible caregiver within FMHP premises, and, any child, age 7 or younger, not accompanied (within close proximity) by a parent or responsible caregiver.

Caregiver: A person (age 12* or older) entrusted with the care of children (11 or younger) within the FMHP premises.

**Colorado Child Labor Law deems 12 years as the minimum age for employment, for example a babysitter.*

Vulnerable minor: An unaccompanied youth, under age 16, whose safety and well being would be endangered if he/she were sent out of the building. Examples of vulnerability might include the minor being too young to be on his/her own, a minor being sent out into an unsafe area, a minor being left alone outside FMHP facilities or a minor who is still on FMHP premises at closing.

Disruptive behavior: Any noisy, boisterous, destructive or acting-out behavior that is inappropriate in a setting where FMHP business is conducted. This behavior may present a physical danger to the child or others, or may serve to interfere with legitimate FMHP business of other visitors, volunteers and staff.

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