

## Guidelines for Managing Families and Children at the Lighthouse

As of July 29, 2021

Most families who visit the lighthouse, including home school and other small groups with children, do so in a respectful and controlled manner. However, sometimes docents are challenged by the behavior of some children and adults and then find it difficult to maintain safety and an enjoyable experience.

The following guidelines will assist you in managing those occasional situations when they arise. You may reference these rules if you have push-back from any of the visitors.

Your primary job at all times is safety. You cannot sacrifice your focus on that in order to deal with an improperly supervised child, nor can you appropriately interact with other visitors and impart information when distracted by these children. Furthermore, CCLF insurance does not include the liability of children being entrusted to your care, even for a short period. Please adhere to the following guidelines for everyone's safety and enjoyment.

1. Every child under the age of 18 must be directly supervised by an adult at all times. This includes anywhere on the light station grounds, in the museum or in the lighthouse. Older siblings are allowed to supervise their younger siblings, only if over the age of 18.
2. When you have a group with children, during the introduction, remind the adults of their responsibilities to closely supervise the children at all times, especially inside the lighthouse. This is an historic structure that is not built to modern safety codes.
3. If the party has children too small to climb the lighthouse, then one adult in the party must remain below with the smaller children. They cannot be left in the care of a docent. Explain that the adult who remains below will have the opportunity to climb when the other adult returns.
4. Conversely, if there is only one adult, they are not allowed to stay below with the smaller children while the older children climb unsupervised. If there is no other adult in the visiting party who is willing to step in, then nobody in the party will be allowed to climb.
5. Children under 48" are not allowed to climb the inside stairs and **under no circumstances** are they allowed to climb the outside stairs more than the first 2 steps, and then, only with a parent. The vertical railings are much too far apart to keep them from easily falling through to the bricks below with just a single misstep. If they want to be part of a photo op, then the others in their party must descend toward the bottom of the stairs rather than allow the small children up the stairs.
6. If you have a tour where the children are misbehaving and doing things they shouldn't, tell the parents immediately that they need to keep a close eye on their children for their safety and the enjoyment of all other visitors. Docents shouldn't have to tell the children directly what not to do, the parents need to do that, whenever possible, unless it's an immediate safety issue or imminent property damage will occur.