**XML Entity References**

An entity reference is a group of characters used in text as a substitute for a single specific character that is also a markup delimiter in XML. Using the entity reference prevents a literal character from being mistaken for a markup delimiter For example, if an attribute must contain a left angle bracket (<), you can substitute the entity reference "&lt;". Entity references always begin with an ampersand (&) and end with a semicolon (;). You can also substitute a numeric or hexadecimal reference. The entities predefined in XML are identified in the following table.

| **Character** | **Entity reference** | **Numeric reference** | **Hexadecimal reference** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| & | &amp; | &#38; | &#x26; |
| < | &lt; | &#60; | &#x3C; |
| > | &gt; | &#62; | &#x3E; |
| " | &quot; | &#34; | &#x22; |
| ' | &apos; | &#39; | &#x27; |