



TOWN OF BURLINGTON



**BURLINGTON
Public Library**
Connect, Discover, Enjoy

Child Safety Policy

Safety of Children in the Library

The staff of the Burlington Public Library strives to create a warm and inviting environment for children in order to encourage a love of books, reading and learning. However the safety and well-being of children at the library is a matter of serious concern. Parents must be aware that responsibility for children using the library rests at all times with the parent(s) or designated caregiver(s) and NOT the library staff. Parents, legal guardians, or designated caregivers may not leave children under the age of 11 unattended in the library. The designated caregiver must be at least 11 years of age.

Parents should familiarize themselves with library hours, which are posted within the Library and on the library website, and should not leave children at the Library before opening or within 15 minutes of closing.

Children old enough to be alone in the library should know how to contact a parent or caregiver in case of emergency.

Child left unattended during library hours

If a young person under the age of 11 is left unattended in the library during operating hours, the library staff will attempt to contact their parents or caregivers. In the event that the parents or caregivers cannot be contacted within a reasonable amount of time, the library staff will contact the Police Department and ensure that the child is in their custody.

Child left unattended after library hours

If a young person age 13 or younger is alone at closing time and cannot contact their parents or caregivers, the library staff will contact the Police Department and ensure the child is in their custody. Two staff members will wait with the young person until law enforcement officers arrive.

Inappropriate use of Children's services

If an adult in Children's Services is not accompanied by a child or is not involved in appropriate use of children's library materials and is observed by staff to be spending an unnecessary and unusual amount of time in Children's Services, such person shall be asked to use other areas of the library.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend this policy, and to rule on situations not specifically covered herein. The Board of Trustees and the Library Director shall review this policy as needed.



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Child Safety Policy)

DATE

_____ Chairman _____

_____ Vice-Chairman _____

Reviewed January 11, 2018