



TOWNSHIP OF GEORGIAN BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Unattended Children in the Library

Board motion number: 17:04

Date of original motion: April 15/2010

Date of review: January 30/2017

Chairperson's signature: Diane Waters

Purpose:

To set parameters for unattended children in the library in order to provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment for all children who use the library's services and facilities.

Regulations:

1. Under the District of Muskoka Children's Aid Society, the library is governed by the terms in the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) with regards to supervision of children.

Specifically:

Section 79(3) "No person having charge of a child less than 16 years of age shall leave the child without making provision for his or her supervision and care that is reasonable in the circumstances."

Section 79(4) "Where a person is charged with contravening Subsection (3) and the child is less than 10 years of age, the onus of establishing that the person made provision for the child's supervision and care that was reasonable in the circumstances rests with the person."

2. Children 9 years old and younger are the responsibility of their parent or guardian and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian on library premises.
3. Children 10 years and older may use the library's facilities and services without their parent or guardian present.
4. Children under the age of five (5) attending programs must remain in the eyesight of their parents or, if in the confines of a room during a scheduled program, may be supervised by the library staff only during the scheduled time of the program.
5. All customers, adults and children, using the library's facilities must comply with the rules and regulations of the library.
6. Staff must try to call the parent or guardian if a child under the age of 10 is found alone in the library.
7. Staff must contact the police and/or Children's Aid Services if they are unable to contact the parent or guardian of children under 10 years of age left alone on library premises.

8. If a minor is left at the library at closing time, emergency closings or in the event of an emergency situation the staff person in charge will attempt to contact the parents or adult caregivers. If the parent or adult caregivers cannot be contacted, staff will notify the police. Staff will remain with the child until the police arrive. Under no circumstances will library staff transport or take the child away from the library building.

Questions about the Township of Georgian Bay Public Library *Unattended Children Policy* can be referred to the CEO.