Lost and Found Policy

This policy is for application to those libraries within the City of Buffalo (Central Library and Buffalo Branch Libraries).

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) is not responsible for any patron’s lost or left behind items. Patrons are solely responsible for their own property.

As a courtesy to our patrons, the B&ECPL will retain and store lost and left behind items for approximately 30 days. In addition, the B&ECPL will make a reasonable attempt to determine and contact the rightful owner of the lost property if said property contains sufficient identifying information.

1. If the rightful owner cannot be located, a lost or left behind item that is still unclaimed after 30 days will become the property of the B&ECPL or be turned over to the Buffalo Police Department.

2. Perishable or hazardous items such as food and personal care items will be disposed of immediately.

3. The B&ECPL will dispose of unclaimed items as follows:

   a. General items will become the property of B&ECPL and may be disposed of or given to a charity as appropriate;
   b. Books will be placed in the Library’s book sale;
   c. Money will be deposited in the B&ECPL general fund or turned over to the Buffalo Police Department, as appropriate; and
   d. Identification documents and items, including but not limited to, credit cards and wallets, will be turned over to the Buffalo Police Department.

Reviewed by Policy Committee June 29, 2020 – no changes.