



Unattended Children Policy

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

I. INTRODUCTION

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) welcomes and encourages children to visit, use library resources and services, and attend library programs. Staff members are available to help and support children; however, the B&ECPL is not able to provide short- or long-term child care, or be responsible for unattended children.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Unattended Children

No children under eight (8) years of age may be left unattended in any library at any time. Library staff will not be responsible for children who have been left without adult supervision. The staff reserves the right to seek the intervention of appropriate law enforcement or social services agencies, as required by individual circumstances.

B. Adults Without Children

Adults who are not accompanying minor children shall not be in areas of the library designated for children. Adult patrons who are not engaged in library activities that require materials in areas designated for children shall be allowed 15 minutes to obtain library materials and then must relocate to other areas of the library.

Adopted April 18, 2024 (Supersedes Rules of Conduct dated September 15, 2022 and Policy Governing Unattended Children dated April 21, 1988) per Res. 2024-9.