



## BONFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy Title: **Unattended Children Policy**

Policy Number: 2016-58

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Policy Review Date: May 13, 2019

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

Unattended children are children of any age who are apparently unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible caregiver. Children who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision while in the Library. The Library is not responsible if children left unattended or leave Library property unattended.

Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety, behaviour, and supervision of children at all times in the Library and on library property.

Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver in circumstances such as the following:

- An unattended child is engaging in behaviour that is disruptive to other library users, staff, or the normal operations of library business.
- An unattended child is involved in a situation that is potentially harmful to the health or safety of the child and/or others.
- An unattended child is left alone at the Library at closing time.

Such situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If parents, guardians, and/or caregivers cannot be reached, or are unresponsive, the Library will work with other agencies as needed.