

Unattended Child Policy

1st Consideration: 2/8/12

Resolution: 12-08

Date Approved: 4/11/12 Review Date: 4/2015

Onondaga County Public Library Unattended Child and Vulnerable Individual Policy

Onondaga County Public Library welcomes children of all ages. However, the Library cannot provide ~~constant~~ supervision of unattended children. ~~as the Library is not a substitute for after-school or daycare programs.~~

~~Children under 8 cannot be left unattended in the library and should be with a parent, guardian, care provider or a baby sitter at least 13 years of age at all times. If a child under age 8 is left alone, library staff will make every effort to locate a parent or care giver. If staff is unable to locate the parent, guardian, or caregiver in the Library, staff will make a concerted effort to contact the parent, guardian or caregiver to pick up the child. If no one can be reached, library staff will call the Syracuse Police to escort the child home.~~

~~Unattended children are children of any age who are not in the immediate care of 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.~~

~~Children are responsible for following the guidelines established in the Standards of Acceptable Behavior. The Library is not responsible for monitoring children's access to Library materials or use of computer equipment and software.~~

~~The library will call 911 for unattended children of any age who may be distressed or in danger. The Library is not responsible for children leaving the library's premises, and staff members will never drive or accompany a child home.~~

VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

~~Vulnerable individuals are people who may have a physical or mental disability that makes it difficult for them to protect themselves or understand and follow library rules. If someone cannot take care of themselves, they must be supervised while in the Library.~~

If a vulnerable person is with a caregiver, the caregiver is responsible for them and must stay with them at all times. Caregivers must also make sure the person they are supervising follows the Standards of Acceptable Behavior

~~CLOSING TIME~~

~~Children between the ages of eight and twelve should not be left unattended at closing time. Parents or care providers must confirm library open hours before dropping off a child at any Library. As closing time approaches staff will observe if there are any unattended children in the Library.~~

~~As necessary, they will speak to the children and ask if they know what time the library closes, if someone is picking them up and/or if they need to call home to remind the person who is picking them up. If the library closes and no one has shown up for the child, STAFF WILL NOT LEAVE THEM ALONE. They will call the police and let them handle it. At least two staff members will remain with the child until the police arrive.~~

~~Under NO circumstances will a staff member drive or accompany a child home. Once the child is in the protective care of the Syracuse Police Department, a note will be attached to the Library entrance or entrances, with the following information: "Unattended child is in the care of the Syracuse Police Department. Neither the name of the child nor the name of the parent, guardian, or caregiver will be listed on the note."~~