

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Policy Type: **Library Services**

Policy Number: **LS-05**

Policy Title: **Unattended Children**

Initial Policy Approval Date: November 1, 2023

Last Review/Revision Date: November 19, 2025

Year of Next Review: **2027**

Section 1: Policy Statement

The Mississauga Public Library Board enacts the following Policy according to the *Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44*.

The Director, Library is responsible for the administration of this policy and may develop required operational procedures for the library under this policy.

Responsibility for the welfare and behaviour of children using the Library rests with the parent or caregiver of the child. This policy is in alignment with the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017.

Section 2: Purpose

This policy outlines the parent or caregiver supervision requirements for children in Mississauga Libraries.

Section 3: Supervision of Children in the Library

Library staff cannot assume responsibility for the welfare of children left unattended in the library.

Parent or caregiver is responsible for following:

- Children under the age of 10 must not be left unattended at any time
- Children under the age of 12 must not be left in charge of other children
- Any person 12 years of age or older who is providing supervision to someone under the age of 10 must remain with the child, and be aware of and responsive to their needs at all times

Certain spaces within the Library may require additional supervision requirements for children due to varying factors such as equipment and risk.

Section 4: Supervision of Children in Library Programs

Parent or caregiver is responsible for following:

- Children aged 5 and younger who are attending programs must be accompanied by their parent or caregiver
- Where indicated, children between the ages of 6 and 10 years may attend a program without their parent or caregiver; the parent or caregiver must remain in the library building and be accessible to the child at all times
- Where indicated, parent or caregiver must attend programs with children

Section 5: Unattended Children in the Library

If a child is left unattended at Mississauga libraries, library staff will check in with the child, and contact parent/guardian and/or the appropriate authorities (e.g. security, police) as necessary. These authorities may contact Peel Children's Aid Society as needed.

If a child is found unattended at closing time, during emergency closings, or in the event of an emergency situation, library staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, staff will notify the police. Staff will remain with the child until police arrive. Library staff will not transport or take the child away from the library building.

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Section 6: Parent or Caregiver Requirements in Ontario

- [Peel Children's Aid Society \(CAS\) Home Alone](#)
 - Available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Polish, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Urdu, and Vietnamese at <https://www.peelcas.org/about-us/publications/multi-lingual>
- [Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect – It's Your Duty; Responsibilities under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#)
- [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#)