Sewickley Public Library

**Unattended Child Policy**

**Sewickley Public Library**

**Policy No.: 305**

**Title: Unattended Child Policy**

**Section: 300 Patron Policies**

**Date Adopted: July 11, 2022**

**Date Revised:**

**Purpose:**

The Sewickley Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use the library and its services. The library does not provide supervision for unattended children in the library.

**Statement of Policy:**

The Library and its staff are not responsible for the safety, well-being, or behavior of any unattended child under the age of 18. Library staff must be able to exercise judgement and discretion to address behavioral and other issues that may arise on a case-by-case basis. This policy provides general guidelines that may be imposed by library staff as required in the sole discretion and judgement of the staff.

* 1. **Rules and Regulations:**

Actions prohibited include, but are not limited to:

1. Parents and caregivers are responsible for the conduct of their children in the library and on library property, regardless of whether they are accompanying their children or not.
2. Children are subject to the same Patron Behavior Guidelines as any patron using the library.
3. Children nine (9) and under, or any child who requires supervision, must be directly supervised by a parent or responsible caregiver at all times while in the library.
4. Parents or caregivers cannot leave children nine (9) and under unattended in the Children’s Department while using other parts of the library.
   1. **The library reserves the right to:**

2.1 Staff will attempt to contact the parent or caregiver of any unattended child nine (9) and under. Staff will also attempt to contact the parent or caregiver of any child if:

2.1 (a) The child’s behavior disturbs the other library users

2.1 (b) The child is frightened or anxious while alone at the library

* 1. (c) The child’s health or safety may be in danger

2.2 When a staff member observes suspected abuse or neglect of a child (under 18 years of age) the

staff is mandated by 49 Pa. Code § 42.42, issued under the Child Protective Services Law, to report such suspected abuse to the Department of Public Welfare.

2.3 At the time of library closing, if a child, whose age is nine (9) or under, is waiting to be picked up, staff will wait until 20 minutes after closing. If the parent or guardian has not arrived, staff will call the Sewickley Police. A library staff member will remain with the child until the police arrive.

* 1. **Noncompliance:**

Failure to comply with this policy will result in a warning and may also result in exclusion from the library.