



Policy UL-AD28 Safety and Well-Being of Children in the University Libraries Policy (Excerpt)

Introduction

The Penn State University Libraries and the services they provide are designed primarily for the students, faculty, and staff of Penn State. We also acknowledge a large secondary group that uses our libraries and services—community members and visitors. All of these groups sometimes bring children to use the libraries and we welcome their supervised presence. Concern for the well-being of children using the Libraries is fundamental to our overall service mission and we seek to maintain a safe and secure environment for all of our users. We must also acknowledge that the Libraries function as public buildings which anyone may enter, therefore the primary care of children using the Libraries resides with parents and designated caregivers. Young children left alone at the library may become restless, bored, frightened, or anxious. It is not the Libraries' intention to seek out unattended children but rather to have a reasoned response prepared as problems present themselves. The following policy and procedures seek to address these concerns for children in a responsible manner.

Definition

An ***unattended child*** is any young person below college student age using the Libraries unaccompanied by a responsible adult in the immediate vicinity. Unattended young adults between 12 and 17 years old may use the Libraries without supervision as long as the same policies governing library use by students are followed. Children under 12 should not be unattended by a parent or caregiver. Every effort will be made to inform parents bringing children under 12 to the Libraries that the parents (or caregivers) are responsible for supervising those children. Children under 12 without parents present will be given a card explaining the Penn State University Libraries policy, with a request to give the card to their caregiver or parent.

<https://libraries.psu.edu/policies/ul-ad28>

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