

Trumbull Library

Unattended Child Policy

In order to communicate the library's concern for the safety and welfare of the children of our community and to increase parental awareness of potential problems, the library has adopted the following policy on unattended children.

The Library's Function

The basic function and responsibility of the Children's Services Department of the Trumbull Library is to encourage the use of the library by students, parents, adults working with children and children of all ages. It is not the library's function or purpose to be a care center for children while parents or other supervising adults are outside the children's department and/or outside the library.

Rules and Procedures Children Under Age 12

Parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for the behavior of their children at all times in the library and on library premises. No child under age 12 may be left alone in the library.

Parents should be aware that leaving children under age 12 in a place of public accommodation may be considered a crime according to Connecticut Public Act 97-298. Parents should not direct their children to the library in the event of an emergency school closing in that the same conditions that have caused school closing may also affect library operations.

If the staff becomes aware of an unattended child under the age of 12 during library hours, an effort will be made to contact the parent, guardian or caregiver.

If a child under age 12 is unaccompanied in the library at closing time, staff will assist the child in calling home to arrange for transportation. Two staff members will remain with a child left unattended at closing time. Staff will not transport children home or to any other location under any circumstances.

Staff should remain with an unaccompanied child under age 12 for fifteen minutes after closing. If a parent or guardian has not picked up the child within that time, the police should be contacted.

Children Age 12 or Over

The library is free and open to unaccompanied children over the age of twelve who use the library without disturbing the other patrons and follow the rules of the library. The parents of children over age 12 should be aware of the library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their children.

The Library Board has adopted this policy to communicate our concern for the safety and welfare of the children of our community and to inform the patrons of the provisions of and penalties in Public Act 97-298: "An Act Concerning The Penalty for Leaving a Child Unsupervised in a Place of Public Accommodation". See below

"In accordance with the General State Statutes of Connecticut, Section 11-23, The Trumbull Library System Board of Directors shall make and adopt bylaws, rules and regulations for the government of the library and reading room".

Adopted by the Trumbull Library Board of Directors: 12/3/03

Public Act 97-298

Senate Bill No. 1017
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PUBLIC ACT NO. 97-298

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR LEAVING A CHILD UNSUPERVISED IN A PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION OR A MOTOR VEHICLE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

(NEW) (a) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

(b) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation, which holds a permit issued under chapter 545 of the general statutes for the sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises, for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class D

felony.

(c) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle between the hours of eight o'clock p.m. and six o'clock a.m. for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class C felony.

Approved July 8, 1997