



Adoption Date:	January 2018
Revision Date:	
Reference #:	BRD - 16
Category:	Operations

Children and Youth Services

1. PURPOSE

Brampton Library is a world-class destination that creates opportunities for everyone to discover their full potential by fostering literacy, inspiring learning and building community. We welcome and encourage children to enjoy the Library's programs, collections, services and spaces. Library staff work to engage children, families and teens in positive ways, and provide support while they are in the Library. Customers of all ages are expected to abide by the Library's Customer Code of Conduct. Brampton Library's intent is to balance access to library services by children of all ages with their safety and wellbeing.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. **Child** - a person 12 years of age and under
- 2.2. **Youth** - a person between the ages of 13 and 18 years

3. SERVICES

Brampton Library endorses the Children's Rights in the Public Library adopted at the Ontario Library Association Annual General Meeting, November 1998 and the Teen Rights in the Public Library adopted at the Ontario Library Association General meeting June 2010. Library staff is trained to assist children in using the Library but cannot assume responsibility for the safety and well-being of children left unattended in the building. Library policies and services are designed to provide a safe and welcoming environment for customers of all ages. Parents need to use the same caution with their children at the library as they would in any other public setting. This includes monitoring children's use of library computers, internet, materials and equipment.

Refer to the Library Membership and Use Policy for details about membership registration, privileges, and obligations.

4. UNATTENDED CHILDREN

- 4.1. Children under the age of 12 who require supervision should not be alone in the library.
 - 4.2. Children ages 12 and over are welcome to use the library independently provided they exhibit competency and adhere to the code of conduct.
 - 4.3. Library staff may intervene with a child under the age of 12 if they become aware that a child in the Library is in these or similar situations:
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- A child is alone and visibly upset or ill
- A child is alone with younger siblings
- A child is alone and doing something dangerous or another person in the library seems to be a danger to the child
- A child is alone and not following library code of conduct
- A child is alone at the library at closing time

5. DUTY TO REPORT

- 5.1. The [Child and Family Services Act \(CFSA\)](#) recognizes that each of us has a responsibility for the welfare of children. It clearly states in s. 72 (1) that members of the public including professionals who work with children, have an obligation to report promptly to Children's Aid Society (CAS) if they suspect that a child or youth under the age of 16 is or may be in need of protection.
- 5.2. The duty to report applies to any child who is, or appears to be, under the age of 16 years. It also applies to children subject to a child protection order who are 16 and 17 years old.

6. PRIVACY

- 6.1. Children and youth have the same privacy rights as adults. However, because parents are responsible for the accounts of their children under 18, they may exercise the right to access afforded in [Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(MFIPPA\)](#), section 54: *"a person who has lawful custody of the individual may exercise the rights of access of an individual less than 16 years of age."*
- 6.2. Special note for the accounts of youth 16 - 18 years: the number of items and any fines accrued may be viewed by parents/guardians for the purposes of settling accounts.