



Vulnerable Adults Policy

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Responsibility for the safety and behavior of ALL vulnerable adults using the Library rests with the caregiver, not with Library staff. Vulnerable adults are required to observe library rules and policies. Those creating disturbances who do not respond to correction will be required to leave.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A “vulnerable adult” is a person 18 years of age or older who, because of mental or physical dysfunctioning:
 - Is unable to reasonably care for himself/herself or carry out the activities of daily living, or
 - Is unable to follow the library’s behavior policies without supervision, or
 - Is unable to protect himself/herself from neglect, exploitation, or a hazardous or abusive situation without assistance from others.
 - This includes adults who are mentally or physically challenged and who need staff help beyond assistance with normal library services and are not under the direct supervision of a parent, legal guardian or custodian.
- A “caregiver” is considered to be a parent, legal guardian or custodian 18 years of age or older.

Neglect or Abuse

In no instance may a vulnerable adult be left without a caregiver physically present in the building.

If it is determined that a vulnerable adult is lost or unattended, staff will attempt to locate a caregiver in the building and explain the policy to them.

If a caregiver is not found in the building, staff will attempt to locate them through library records, phone book, etc. When/if they are located by phone, they will be asked to join the vulnerable adult in the Library or pick up the vulnerable adult immediately. The policy will be explained.

If a caregiver cannot be located within a reasonable amount of time or if the Library is closing, staff will call the police who will take custody of the vulnerable adult.

Disruptive Behavior

The Library will report to law enforcement any instance where an unattended vulnerable adult is disruptive and does not respond to the correction of staff. Law enforcement may be asked to remove vulnerable adults whose caregivers cannot be found.

Vulnerable Adults Left After Closing

If the Library is closing, two staff members will wait with any adult considered to be vulnerable whose caregiver is en route until the adult is picked up or until the police arrive to take custody of the adult.

Under no circumstances will a staff member take the vulnerable adult out of the building nor will the adult be left alone outside the building after closing.

Reports

Incident reports will be written for any incident involving the neglect of a vulnerable adult. Incident reports will be written for any disruptive behavior in which law enforcement is notified. Repeated incidents involving a particular vulnerable adult may result in loss of library privileges for both the adult and caregiver.