

## **Unattended Vulnerable Patron Policy**

The Library strives to provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment for all community members. The Library is particularly concerned for the safety of vulnerable patrons in and around the Library. *A vulnerable patron is an individual who is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that significantly impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for his/her own care or manage his/her own behavior without assistance.*

A parent/guardian or caregiver 18 years of age or older must be responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of vulnerable patrons during their Library visits. Staff cannot be expected to monitor or prevent vulnerable patrons from leaving the building/grounds or to assume responsibility for monitoring their behavior.

The Library will adhere to the following guidelines concerning the care and behavior of vulnerable patrons:

- Vulnerable patrons, who can understand and follow the rules of conduct and who can care for themselves, are welcomed to be in the Library unattended. Vulnerable patrons will be expected to follow the rules of conduct as outlined in the Public Behavior Policy. They should have contact information for a parent/guardian or caregiver who can assist them in an emergency.
- Vulnerable patrons who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves must be attended and have adequate supervision at all times.
- Staff will attempt to contact a parent/guardian or caregiver when a vulnerable adult's:
  - health or safety is in doubt
  - behavior disturbs other Library users
  - actions violate any of the rules of conduct for library patrons
  - parent/guardian or caregiver is not present at closing time.

Every reasonable effort will be made by the staff to assist the vulnerable adult in contacting the appropriate adult. If no responsible adult is reached, or the vulnerable adult is not picked up by Library closing, staff may notify the police.

*Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees August 17, 2016*