

UNATTENDED VULNERABLE ADULT POLICY

The Westhampton Free Library strives to provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment for all community members. The Library is particularly concerned for the safety of vulnerable adults* in and around the Library. A parent/guardian or caregiver 18 years of age or older must be responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of vulnerable adults during their Library visits. Staff cannot be expected to monitor or prevent vulnerable adults from leaving the building/grounds or to assume responsibility for monitoring their behavior.

*A vulnerable adult is someone aged 18 or over:

- Who is, or may be, in need of community services due to age, illness or a mental or physical disability
- Who is, or may be, unable to take care of himself/herself, or unable to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation

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

- Vulnerable adults, who can understand and follow the rules of conduct and who can care for themselves, are welcomed to be in the Library unattended.
- Vulnerable adults will be expected to follow the rules of conduct as outlined in the Maintenance of Public Order at Library Facilities and Rules for the Use of the Library policies. They should have contact information for a parent/guardian or caregiver who can assist them in an emergency.
- Vulnerable adults 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 the Use of the Library
 - 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 within 15 minutes of Library closing, staff may notify the police.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees 11/2021