

CATEGORY: EXTERNAL

POLICY TITLE: Vulnerable Adult Policy

ACCEPTED AND EFFECTIVE as of: May 1, 2025

APPLICATION: Patrons

RESPONSIBILITY: Director and staff

Vulnerable Adult Policy

The Board of Trustees and staff strive to provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment for all community members. We welcome vulnerable adults who wish to use the library.

Definition: A vulnerable adult is an individual over the age of 18 who is unable to reasonably care for themselves in an emergency situation, or is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that may significantly impair that person's ability to provide adequately for their personal needs, manage their behavior without assistance or requires help beyond normal library services.

Parents, legal guardians, caregivers, custodians or those who accompany a vulnerable adult (hereafter referred to as 'guardian') are expected to review and be fully aware of Kirkland Town Library policies, particularly the Code of Conduct and the Computer Usage, Internet and Wireless Access Policy. Guardians should consider the safety and well-being of their adult and the needs of other library users by cooperating with the following:

- Vulnerable adults not capable of following our Code of Conduct must have a guardian 18 years or older with them while in the Library who is responsible for monitoring their activities on Library grounds and can manage their behavior and adequately provide for their personal needs. Vulnerable adults who are unable to abide by the Library's policies should never be unattended.
- Vulnerable adults capable of following our Code of Conduct and providing for their own needs are welcome to remain in the Library unattended so long as they have the name and phone number of a contact person who can assist them in an emergency or if the adult's health or safety is in doubt. Library privileges will be withheld until appropriate contact information is provided.

- The safety and behavior of vulnerable adults in the Library rests with the guardian. The Library cannot be held responsible for incidents, accidents or other liabilities arising from the actions of vulnerable adults. The Library assumes no responsibility for vulnerable adults left unattended on the Library premises.
- Staff cannot assume responsibility for monitoring behavior of vulnerable adults.
- Staff cannot monitor nor prevent vulnerable adults from leaving the building/grounds.
- Staff cannot drive vulnerable adults to any location, even at the request of the guardian.
- The rules for vulnerable adults at closing (normal business hours, inclement weather or other emergency) are the same as the rules for an unattended child (see Safe Child Policy).

When the health or safety of a vulnerable adult is in doubt or behavior violates Library policy, staff will attempt to contact the guardian before calling 911.

In the case of an immediate health or safety concern staff will contact 911 first and then try to contact the guardian. Staff will stay with the person until help arrives, if the situation permits.

Violations of the Vulnerable Adult Policy may result in the suspension of library privileges for the individual and/or family.