

**Adrian District Library
Adrian, Michigan**

**CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS
IN THE LIBRARY POLICY**

I. Purpose.

Children and Vulnerable Adults are welcome and encouraged to use the Library at all times. The safety of children and vulnerable adults left alone in the Library is a serious concern of the Library staff. Library facilities are not licensed or designated to provide basic child care needs and we are not a babysitting service. Because Library staff has many duties to perform in order to help all of our patrons, they cannot monitor the whereabouts or behavior of children or vulnerable adults. Any number of things could happen to a child or vulnerable adult unsupervised. For example, a child or vulnerable adult could be lured away by a stranger, become ill, wander outside, or be injured. An emergency could dictate that patrons evacuate the building and the child or vulnerable adult could require assistance. Therefore, the behavior and welfare of children and vulnerable adults in the Library must remain the responsibility of the parent, guardian, or caregiver of the child. The Library cannot be responsible for any consequences of parents or caregivers forfeiting their responsibilities. As such, the Library Board adopts the following policy with regard to children and vulnerable adults at the Library.

II. Definitions

- A. “Child” means a minor under the age of 18.
- B. “Vulnerable Adult” means an individual age 18 or over who, because of age, developmental disability, mental illness, or physical disability requires supervision or personal care or lacks the personal and social skills required to live independently.
- C. “Responsible Caregiver” is an individual who is responsible for monitoring or caring for a child or vulnerable adult and must be a legal adult.

III. Rules and Regulations Regarding Children.

- A. All patrons, including children, are expected to comply with the Library's policies, including its Patron Behavior Policy. Parents, guardians, or Responsible Caregivers shall review and be fully aware of all Library policies, particularly including but not limited to the Internet Use Policy.
- B. Parents, guardians and Responsible Caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children regardless of age while in the Library.
- C. Library Staff will not supervise or monitor children's behavior.

D. Children under the age of 10 must be attended by a parent, guardian or Responsible Caregiver who remains on Library premises at all times. If a child under the age of 10 is attending a Library sponsored program on the premises, the parent, a guardian, or Responsible Caregiver is to remain on the premises for the duration of the program.

E. Children of any age who, for any reason require supervision or personal care shall be attended by a parent, guardian, or Responsible Caregiver at all times while on Library premises.

F. Children ages 5 and under must be within the visual contact of a parent, guardian, or Responsible Caregiver at all times, including during programs. Children 5 and under may not be left in the Youth Services Department alone.

G. Staff will not be responsible if unattended children of any age leave the Library premises alone or with other persons. Further, staff will not be responsible for unaccompanied children 10 years or older who may be asked to leave the Library because the child is in violation of Library policy.

H. We request that all unattended children be picked up at least ten minutes before closing time. Parents, guardians, and Responsible Caregivers need to be aware of when the Library closes.

I. Children 10 years or older must know their telephone number and other contact information if they are unattended at the Library. It is a violation of Library policy not to come immediately and pick up your unattended child if the Library calls.

III. Rules and Regulations Regarding Vulnerable Adults.

A. All patrons, including vulnerable adults are expected to comply with the Library's policies, including its Patron Behavior Policy. Parents, guardians, or Responsible Caregivers shall review and be fully aware of all Library policies including, but not limited to the Internet Use Policy.

B. Parents, guardians, or Responsible Caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of the vulnerable adult in their care while in the Library or on Library property.

C. Library Staff will not supervise or monitor a vulnerable adult's behavior.

D. Vulnerable adults who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision while in the Library.

E. Vulnerable adults who can understand and follow the Patron Behavior Policy and who can care for themselves are allowed to be in the library unattended. They should have contact information for someone who can assist them in an emergency.

F. Staff will not be responsible if an unattended vulnerable adult leaves the Library premises alone or with other persons. Further, staff will not be responsible for

unaccompanied vulnerable adults who may be asked to leave the Library because the vulnerable adult is in violation of Library policy.

IV. Violations/Enforcement

A. Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, legal guardian, custodian or Responsible Caregiver when:

1. The health or safety of an unattended child or vulnerable adult is in doubt;
2. A child or vulnerable adult expresses they are frightened while alone at the Library;
3. The behavior of an unattended child or vulnerable adult violates Library policy.
4. The unattended child or vulnerable adult has not been met by a parent, legal guardian, custodian or Responsible Caregiver at closing time. An individual is considered an unattended vulnerable adult when they are not picked up by closing time and need assistance procuring transportation. A child is considered unattended at closing time if the child is under the age of 10 or the child needs assistance procuring transportation.

B. If a parent, legal guardian, custodian or Responsible Caregiver cannot be reached within 15 minutes after closing or fails to arrive within a reasonable time after being contacted, Library staff will contact law enforcement officials to take charge of the situation involving the unattended child or vulnerable adult. Library employees are not permitted to transport an unattended child or vulnerable adult under any circumstances.

C. If the parent, legal guardian, custodian or Responsible Caregiver can be reached within 15 minutes after closing and arrives in a reasonable time, the staff member shall explain the Library's policy and provide a copy of this Policy.

D. Any person violating this policy shall be subject to the same enforcement and violations provisions contained in the Violations Policy. [SEE: Patron Behavior Policy, Section V, Disciplinary Process for Library Facilities]

Adopted by the Adrian District Library Board

February 9, 2016

Amended March 16, 2021