



Unattended Vulnerable Adult Policy

Sachem Public 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* both in the Library building and on its premises. 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.

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 welcome to be in the Library unattended. Vulnerable adults are expected to follow the rules of conduct as outlined in the Public Behavior in the Library Policy. 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 including during library sponsored programs.
- Every reasonable effort will be made 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.

If no appropriate adult is reached, or the vulnerable adult is not picked up within 15 minutes of Library closing, staff may notify the police.

**A vulnerable adult is an individual 18 years of age or older who is mentally or physically impaired to a degree that significantly challenges the individual's ability to provide adequately and without assistance for his/her own care or manage his/her own behavior.*