

Marcellus Free Library

Policy Name:	Vulnerable Adults		
Section #:		Section Title:	Public Space
Adopted:	3/7/2019		Reviewed:

1. Policy Statement

The Marcellus Free Library strives to provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment for all community members. The Library is concerned for the safety of vulnerable adults in and around the Library and takes reasonable steps to manage risks in order to keep vulnerable adults safe. It is important that everyone understands guidelines and responsibilities in safeguarding such patrons.

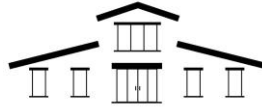
2. Definition

A vulnerable adult is an individual over the age of 18 who is mentally or physically challenged to such a degree that it appears to significantly impair the individual's ability to provide adequately for his/her own care and to manage his/her own behavior without assistance. At least two library staff members will determine by observed behavior that a patron meets these criteria.

3. The Policy

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

- Vulnerable adults, who can understand and follow the Library's Code of Conduct and who can care for themselves are welcome to be in the Library unattended. They should have contact information for someone 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. A parent/guardian or caregiver 18 years of age or older must be responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of these vulnerable adults during their Library visits.
- 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 Code of Conduct Policy
 - parent/guardian or caregiver is not present at closing time.



If no responsible adult is reached, or if the vulnerable adult is not picked up by closing time, the staff may contact 911 for assistance.

The Library does not assume responsibility for vulnerable adults, who are left unattended on the Library property. Staff members cannot be expected to monitor or prevent vulnerable adults from leaving the building/grounds or to assume responsibility for monitoring their behavior.

Library staff may not drive vulnerable adults to any location, even by request of the parent/caregiver.