

Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

I. Purpose

Children and Vulnerable Adults are welcome and encouraged to use the Farmington Community Library ("Library"). The Farmington Community Library Board ("Library Board") adopts the following Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy ("Policy").

II. Definitions

1. "Child" means a minor under the age of 18.
2. "Vulnerable Adult" means an individual age 18 or over who, because of developmental disability, mental illness, physical disability, or other similar reasons, requires supervision or personal care, or lacks the personal and social skills required to live independently.
3. "Responsible Caregiver" is an individual who is responsible for monitoring or caring for a Child or Vulnerable Adult and who must be at least 16 years old.
4. "Library Property" means all buildings (interior and exterior), parking lots, and grounds controlled and operated by the Library.

III. Rules and Regulations Regarding Children

1. All patrons, including children, are expected to comply with the Library's policies, including its Expected Behavior Policy. Parents, guardians, or responsible caregivers are expected to review and be fully aware of all Library policies governing children, including the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
2. Parents, guardians, and responsible caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children, regardless of age, while on Library property.

3. Library staff are not expected to supervise or monitor children's behavior.
4. Children ages 7 and under must be within visual contact of their parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver at all times. Children ages 7 and under may not be left in the Children's Department or any area of Library property alone.
5. Children ages 11 and under must be attended by their parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. The parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver shall remain on Library property at all times. If a child under the age of 11 is attending a Library-sponsored program on Library property their parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver is expected to remain on Library property for the duration of the program.
6. Children of any age who, because of developmental disability, mental illness, physical disability, or other similar reason, require supervision or personal care shall be attended by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver at all times.
7. Library staff will not be responsible if unattended children of any age leave Library property alone or with other persons. Further, staff will not be responsible for children who may be asked to leave the Library if the child is in violation of Library policy.
8. All unattended children, ages 12 – 15 years of age, must be picked up from Library property at least **ten minutes** before closing time. Parents, guardians, and responsible caregivers need to be aware of when the Library closes.
9. Children 12 years of age or older must know or have access to their parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver's contact information if they are unattended at the Library. It is a violation of Library policy not to arrive immediately and pick up your unattended child if the Library contacts you.

IV. Rules and Regulations Regarding Vulnerable Adults

1. All patrons, including vulnerable adults, are expected to comply with the Library's policies, including its Expected Behavior Policy. Parents, guardians, or responsible

caregivers shall review and be fully aware of all Library policies, including the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

2. Parents, guardians, and responsible caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of the vulnerable adult in their care while on Library property.
3. Vulnerable Adults who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves or who do not have the ability to use the Library independently may not be left alone and must have adequate supervision while on Library property.
4. Vulnerable adults who can understand and follow Library policies, including the Expected Behavior Policy, and who can care for themselves are allowed to be on Library property unattended. They are expected to have contact information for someone who can assist them in an emergency.
5. We request that all vulnerable adults be picked up at least **ten minutes** before closing time. Parents, guardians, and responsible caregivers need to be aware of when the Library closes. An individual is considered an unattended vulnerable adult when they are not picked up by closing time and need assistance procuring transportation.
6. Vulnerable adults must know or have access to their parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver's contact information if they are unattended on Library property. It is a violation of Library policy not to arrive immediately and pick up the vulnerable adult under your care if the Library contacts you.

V. Contact with Parent, Guardian, or Responsible Caregiver for an Unattended Child or Vulnerable Adult

1. Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, legal guardian, or responsible caregiver when:
 - A. The health or safety of an unattended child or vulnerable adult is in doubt.
 - B. A child or vulnerable adult is frightened while unattended on Library property.

- C. The behavior of an unattended child or vulnerable adult violates Library policy.
 - D. The unattended child, 15 years of age or younger, or vulnerable adult has not been met by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver at closing time.
- 2. If the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver can be reached within 10 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.
 - 3. If a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver cannot be reached within 15 minutes after closing, fails to arrive within a reasonable time after being contacted, or arrives 30 minutes or more after the Library closes, Library staff will contact local police 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.
 - 4. Two Library staff members shall remain with the unattended child or vulnerable adult until the responsible caregiver or law enforcement arrives.

VI. Accountability, Violations, and Appeal

Parents, guardians, and responsible caregivers are responsible for the behavior and safety of children or vulnerable adults who require care. All Library staff are authorized to ask patrons whose choices violate the Library's policies to leave Library property for the day. All staff are authorized to call 911 in the event of an emergency and are required to document the incident. The Library Director or the Director's designee may restrict access to Library facilities, property, or virtual spaces pursuant to the terms of the Library Violations and Appeal Policy.