



## **Vulnerable Adults Policy**

### **Purpose**

Maxwell Memorial Library strives to provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment for all community members. As such, the Library is concerned for the safety of vulnerable adults in and around the Library.

### **Definition**

A vulnerable adult is an individual over the age of 18 who is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that may significantly impair the individual's ability to provide adequately for their own care or manage their own behavior without assistance.

### **Guidelines**

Vulnerable adults who can understand and follow the Patron Code of Conduct, and who can care for themselves, are welcome to be in the Library unattended. Vulnerable adults will be expected to follow the rules of conduct as outlined in the Library's policies. In addition, 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 to and must have adequate supervision at all times. Vulnerable adults must have a parent/guardian or caregiver 18 years of age or older who is responsible for monitoring the activities of, managing the behavior of, and responding to the personal needs of vulnerable adults during their Library visits. Library staff are not responsible for, nor liable for, the monitoring of vulnerable adults, preventing vulnerable adults from leaving the building/grounds, or monitoring the behavior of vulnerable adults. Library staff will reasonably attempt to contact a parent/guardian or caregiver when a vulnerable adult's health or safety is in doubt, when behavior disturbs other library users, when actions violate any of the Library's policies, or if the parent/guardian or caregiver is not present at closing time. Every reasonable effort will be made by Library staff to assist the vulnerable adult in contacting the appropriate responsible adult in these instances. If no responsible adult is reached, or the vulnerable adult is not picked up within 15 minutes of library closing, Library staff may notify local law enforcement and/or an appropriate County agency.

Approved March 18, 2025 by the Maxwell Memorial Library Board of Trustees.