

## **Vulnerable Adults Policy & Procedures**

A vulnerable adult may be defined as an individual over the age of 18 who is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that significantly impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for his/her own care or manage his/her own behavior without assistance, cannot reasonably care for himself/herself in an emergency situation, or who needs help beyond assistance with normal library services.

- Vulnerable adults must have a parent/guardian or caregiver 18 years of age or older with them while they are in the Library who can manage their behavior and provide adequately for their personal needs.
- Physically challenged adults who are capable of providing for their own needs are welcome to remain in the library without supervision so long as a contact person is available in the event that the adult's health or safety is in doubt.
- The procedures for vulnerable adults left unattended in the building and at closing time shall be the same as the procedures for an unattended child.

### **Procedures**

If the Library is closing due to inclement weather or other emergency, and a vulnerable adult is left at the Library without transportation home, the Library staff will allow the person to call for a ride home using a library phone. At all regular or early closings, if a vulnerable adult is unable to contact a caregiver, the Cherry Hill Township Police will be contacted and the person will be placed in their care. Library staff will remain no longer than 15 minutes after closing.

If a vulnerable adult is found without a caregiver during library hours, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Staff will try to locate the caregiver in the Library and provide a Vulnerable Adult Policy to the parent or caregiver.
2. Staff will encourage an vulnerable adult to contact the caregiver if it is within 15 minutes of closing time.
3. Staff will call the Cherry Hill Township Police to pick up the vulnerable adult if the caregiver cannot be located within the library or via phone. Staff will notify the Director and Library Services Manager of the situation when police are called.
4. Two library staff members will remain with the vulnerable adult until the caregiver or police arrive.

5. A sign will be left on the Library door stating “Unattended adult is in the custody of the Cherry Hill Township Police, 820 Mercer Street, 856-665-1200,” once the vulnerable adult is in the care of the police. The person’s identity will not be stated on the sign.
  
6. Under no circumstances will Library staff provide transportation to stranded patrons.

VIOLATION OF THE UNATTENDED ADULT POLICY MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF LIBRARY PRIVILEGES FOR THE FAMILY.

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Board Approved: October 2021