

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.

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 shall 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 in the Library or on Library Property.
3. Library staff will not be expected to supervise or monitor children's behavior.

4. Children under the age of 11 must be attended by a parent, guardian, or Responsible Caregiver. The parent, guardian, or Responsible Caregiver shall remain in the Library at all times. If a Child under the age of 11 is attending a Library-sponsored program on the premises, the parent, a guardian, or Responsible Caregiver is to remain on the premises for the duration of the program.
5. 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.
6. Children ages 7 and under must be within visual contact of a parent, guardian, or Responsible Caregiver at all times, including during programs and visits to the restroom. Children 7 and under may not be left in the Children's Department or any area of the Library alone.
7. Library staff will not be responsible if unattended children of any age leave the Library premises 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. We request that all unattended children 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 11 years 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 in the Library or 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 in the Library and must have adequate supervision while in the Library.
4. Vulnerable Adults who can understand and follow the Expected Behavior Policy and who can care for themselves are allowed to be in the Library unattended. They should 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.
6. Vulnerable Adults 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 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 alone at the Library.
 - C. The behavior of an unattended Child or Vulnerable Adult violates Library Policy.

2. The unattended Child, 16 years of age or younger, or Vulnerable Adult has not been met by a parent, legal guardian, custodian, or Responsible Caregiver at closing time. An individual is considered an unattended Vulnerable Adult when he/she is not picked up by closing time and needs assistance procuring transportation.
3. If a parent, legal 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. If the parent, legal 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.
5. 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.