

Unattended Vulnerable Adults

The Smithtown Library seeks to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all community members. Including those vulnerable adults who require assistance in utilizing the Library's offerings.

A vulnerable adult is 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.

Staff cannot be expected to monitor or prevent vulnerable adults from leaving the building/grounds or to assume responsibility for monitoring their behavior. Nor will they transport vulnerable adults to any location, even by request of the family member, caregiver, or guardian.

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

- Vulnerable adults, who are able to abide by the rules of conduct and who are able to care for themselves, are welcomed to be in the Library unattended. Vulnerable adults will be expected to follow the rules of conduct outlined in Library policy *700-10 Public Behavior On Library Property*. They are expected to possess contact information for a parent/guardian or caregiver who can assist them in an emergency.
- Vulnerable adults who are unable to care for themselves must be accompanied and possess 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 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 policy *700-10 Public Behavior On Library Property*
 - 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. If no responsible adult is reached, or the vulnerable adult is not picked up within 15 minutes of Library closing, staff may notify the police and/or an appropriate County agency. Such agencies include, but are not limited to Suffolk County Adult Protective Services, New York State Office of Children and Family Services.