

UNATTENDED VULNERABLE ADULT

Purpose

Connetquot Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for all patrons. The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures for ensuring the safety of vulnerable adults who may be left unattended in the library.

Definition

A vulnerable adult is defined as any individual aged 18 or older who, because of physical or mental disability, requires assistance with daily living activities, decision-making, or protection from potential harm.

Policy

1. Library Staff Responsibility

- Library staff are not responsible for supervising or ensuring the safety of vulnerable adults left unattended in the library.
- Staff will assist vulnerable adults in locating appropriate resources and will provide reasonable support, but they cannot assume the role of caregiver.

2. Vulnerable Adults Requiring Supervision

- Vulnerable adults who require personal or medical care must be accompanied by a responsible adult caregiver at all times while in the library.
- Caregivers are responsible for the behavior, safety, and supervision of the vulnerable adult in their care as outlined in the Policy 700-10 - MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER ON LIBRARY PROPERTY

3. Unattended Vulnerable Adults

- If a vulnerable adult is found to be unattended and appears to be in need of assistance, library staff will attempt to locate the caregiver within the library.
- If the caregiver cannot be located within the library, staff will make reasonable efforts to contact the caregiver using information provided by the vulnerable adult or other available resources.

4. Emergency Situations

- In the event of an emergency or if the vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, library staff will contact emergency services (911) and provide the necessary assistance until help arrives.
- Staff will then inform the Executive Director or the designated supervisor on duty about the situation.

5. Repeated Incidents

- If a vulnerable adult is repeatedly left unattended in the library, staff will document the incidents and report them to the Executive Director.
- The Executive Director may take appropriate action, which may include contacting social services or other appropriate agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of the vulnerable adult.

6. Library Programs and Services

- Vulnerable adults are welcome to participate in library programs and use library services. However, if they require assistance beyond what the library staff can provide, they must be accompanied by a caregiver.
 - The library offers a variety of resources and referrals to community services that may be beneficial for vulnerable adults and their caregivers.
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Policy 700-35

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