

## **LIBRARY CHILD SAFETY AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY**

### **I. Purpose Statement**

The Vose Library welcomes all ages and strives to provide an environment/place for all to enjoy. The safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults at the library is of utmost importance, however, the library is a public building open to all. Vulnerable adults and young children should be supervised by age appropriate, responsible parties. Parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring the activities and regulating the behavior of persons in their care while they are in the library. The Library Board and staff respect the rights and privacy of all library patrons. Library staff will intervene only when juveniles or vulnerable adults are left unattended or issues relating to safety, disruptive behavior, or well-being occur. Library staff will follow established library procedure for the protection of the involved party and to maintain an environment free from disruption in accordance with the Patron Behavior Policy.

### **II. Unattended Children/Vulnerable Adults in the Library**

- a. An unattended child is a minor of any age whose behavior requires them to be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. A vulnerable adult is a person over the age of 18-years-old who is unable or unwilling to care for themselves.
- b. The library does not have staff, staff training or State Certification to act as a child care facility or in lieu of trained staff or family for vulnerable adults.
- c. The library staff is not responsible for the care of unattended children and vulnerable adults and does not assume responsibility from the parents or caregivers for providing for the welfare of persons in their care.
- d. Library staff is not responsible for children or vulnerable adults interacting with or leaving the library with persons who are not appropriate caregivers.
- e. Library staff is not responsible for any consequences of parents or caregivers forfeiting their responsibilities.
- f. Library staff may refer to the police those children or vulnerable adults who are left unattended in the library when a parent/guardian cannot be reached or if the behavior of the minor child or vulnerable adult falls outside that of acceptable behavior in the library.

### **III. Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities**

- a. Parents/caregivers should remain with persons in their care and be responsible for the care of those persons inside the entire library building and on the premises.
- b. Parents/caregivers should encourage positive behavior by persons under their care while in the library.
- c. Parents/caregivers should cooperate with the library staff if persons in their care are disruptive or if they interfere or endanger others or cause damage to property.
- d. Parents or guardians with children who are mature enough to be left alone at the library are expected to set reasonable time limits for their children's visits to the library and provide a means of transportation home from the library by the time the library closes.

### **IV. Staff Guidelines**

- a. Staff will attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or caregiver to address concerns of lost, unattended, or scared children or vulnerable adults, or those with conduct issues.
- b. If the parent or responsible guardian cannot be found in the building or by phone, the proper authorities will be notified after a period of 15 minutes.

- c. An incident report will be filled out, given to appropriate library personnel, and kept on record.
- d. Library staff may not take children or vulnerable adults out of the building, unless caregivers are located within sight of the facility, nor is staff permitted to transport children or vulnerable adults away from Library facilities.
- e. E. For the safety of a child or vulnerable adult left unattended in the library at closing, appropriate law enforcement authorities will be contacted to take custody after a time period of 15 minutes following closing if attempts to contact the parent, legal guardian, or custodian have been unsuccessful.

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