

## **VULNERABLE ADULT POLICY**

The RKML strives to provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment for all community members. The Library is concerned for the safety of vulnerable adults in and around the library. 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.

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 cannot be expected to monitor or prevent vulnerable adults from leaving the building/grounds or assume responsibility for monitoring their behavior. The Library will adhere to the following guidelines concerning the care and behavior of vulnerable adults.

Day program groups are welcomed and encouraged to use the Library. Day program staff leaders are responsible for supervising their clients at all times on the library grounds.

Vulnerable adults, who can understand and follow the rules of conduct and who can care for themselves, are welcome to be in the library unattended. They should have contact information for a parent/guardian or caregiver who can assist them in an emergency.

Vulnerable adults who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves must be attended and have adequate supervision at all times.

Library staff will attempt to contact a parent/guardian or caregiver when a vulnerable adult's health or safety is in doubt or behavior disturbs other library users. Every reasonable effort will be made by the Library staff to assist the vulnerable adult in contacting the appropriate responsible adult. If a vulnerable adult appears to be lost or left, or remains on the Library premises, the police may be called if a parent/guardian or responsible adult cannot be reached. Two staff members will wait with the vulnerable adult. Under no circumstances can a Library staff member or volunteer drive a vulnerable adult home.

Approved by the RKML Board of Trustees on April 9, 2024