



Safe Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy

The safety of unattended children in the Library is a serious concern. Children under the age of 11 must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult (18 years or older). If a child under the age of 11 is attending a Library program, a parent/caregiver must be in the building and aware of the location and behavior of his/her child. If children under the age of 11 are left at the Library unattended, an attempt to contact a parent / caregiver will be made. If there is no response, the police will be contacted, especially if the library is closing.

Children ages 11 to 17 may use the library on their own provided that they comply with all Library rules and the *Patron Code of Conduct*. Parents/caregivers are still, however, responsible for the behavior of their children. If children do not comply with Library rules and the *Patron Code of Conduct*, Library staff will ask them to leave the Library and the police may be contacted.

Library staff are not “in loco parentis”, that is, they do not take on the responsibility of a parent, and cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving with persons who are not the appropriate chaperone.

Violation of the Safe Child Policy may result in suspension of Library privileges.

A Vulnerable adult is an individual over the age of 18 who is mentally, physically or behaviorally challenged to a degree that may significantly impair that person’s ability to provide adequately for his/her personal needs and manage his/her 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.

Approved by the Saugerties Public Library board on April 14, 2015, December 11, 2018, June 8, 2023, April 9, 2026

Review Cycle: 5 years

Review History: