

# Vulnerable Adult Policy

Patterson Library strives to provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment for all community members. The Library is particularly concerned for the safety of vulnerable adults\* in and around the Library. 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 to assume responsibility for monitoring their behavior.

**Standards and Procedures:** It is up to the discretion of the library staff to determine if vulnerable adults are capable or incapable to be left unattended in the Library. The Library will adhere to the following guidelines concerning the care and behavior of vulnerable adults:

**Capable Vulnerable Adults:** 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. Vulnerable adults will be expected to follow the rules of conduct as outlined in the Library's Patron Code of Conduct Policy. They should have contact information for a parent/guardian or caregiver who can assist them in an emergency. 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 any of the Library's policies.

**Incappable Vulnerable Adults:** Vulnerable adults who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves must be attended and have adequate supervision at all times. Every reasonable effort will be made by the staff to assist the vulnerable adult in contacting the appropriate adult if necessary. 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.

**Library staff reserve the right to contact the Chautauqua County Health Department for concerns involving the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults or the elderly at 716-363-4447.**

*\* A vulnerable adult is an individual over the age of 18 who is mentally or physically challenged to a degree that may significantly impair that person's ability to provide adequately for their personal needs and manage their behavior without assistance.*