

OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY

VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

The Ossining Public 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 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 or her own care or manage his or her own behavior without assistance.

Vulnerable adults who can understand and follow the rules of conduct and who can care for themselves are welcome to use the library unattended. Vulnerable adults are expected to follow the rules of conduct as outlined in the library's Patron Code of Conduct policy. Vulnerable adults are expected to have contact information for a responsible family member, caregiver, or guardian 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. Families or organizations are to be contacted for their vulnerable adults who have repeated instances requiring intervention.

The library assumes no responsibility for vulnerable adults left unattended on the library premises, but will make every reasonable attempt to contact the person's family member, caregiver, or guardian in the event of an emergency closing or other occurrence. In the event that a staff member has concern for the safety of a vulnerable adult who does not have someone to assist them or has concern for the safety, security, and wellbeing of the general public or library property because of actions by or behavior of a vulnerable adult, staff will attempt to contact a family member, caregiver, or guardian. If no such person is available or if the situation warrants immediate action, the Ossining Police Department will be called to assist. If an unattended vulnerable adult is left in the library at closing time, staff will attempt to reach the family member, caregiver, or guardian. If the vulnerable adult is not picked up within 15 minutes of library closing time or if the staff member is unable to reach the vulnerable adult's family member, caregiver, or guardian, staff will notify the Ossining Police Department.

Staff will not monitor or prevent vulnerable adults from leaving the building or grounds or to assume responsibility for monitoring their behavior. Sudden emergencies may occur in the library and, in such cases, the library assumes no responsibility for unattended vulnerable adults.

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Library staff will not drive vulnerable adults to any location, even by request of the family member, caregiver, or guardian.

If library staff, through observation of behavior, suspect that a vulnerable adult who cannot care for themselves or follow the library's Patron Code of Conduct has been left unattended, library staff will make every attempt to contact the vulnerable adult's caregiver. If the vulnerable adult's caregiver cannot be reached or cannot get to the library, the Ossining Police Department may be called to assist.

If library staff deem that a vulnerable adult may need additional assistance from public agencies, staff may call such agencies and disclose information about the vulnerable adult. Agencies include, but are not limited to Westchester County Adult Protective Services (914-995-2259 or 914-995-2099), New York State Office of Children and Family Services (844-697-3505), or Westchester County Department of Mental Health Crisis Prevention and Response Team (914-952-5959).

Approved by the Board of Trustees December 14, 2020