



## Vulnerable Adults

### Purpose

The Nippersink Public Library District (“Library”) strives to provide a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all community members. The Library is particularly concerned for the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults while using Library facilities and services.

A vulnerable adult is defined as an individual who is unable to reasonably care for themselves in an emergency, or who requires assistance beyond typical Library services due to physical, mental, or cognitive challenges.

### Policy Statement

Library staff are committed to providing courteous and helpful service to all patrons but are not permitted to assume responsibility for the safety, supervision, or care of vulnerable adults. Responsibility rests with a parent, guardian, or adult caregiver age 18 or older.

### Guidelines

1. Vulnerable adults who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves must be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
2. Vulnerable adults who can care for themselves are welcome to use the Library independently, provided they:
  - Follow the Library’s Patron Conduct Policy, and
  - Have readily available contact information for a parent, guardian, or caregiver in case of emergency.
3. If a vulnerable adult appears to be unsafe, disoriented, or in distress—and a responsible caregiver cannot be located, or the Library is closing—staff are authorized to contact local law enforcement and will remain with the individual until authorities arrive.

### Enforcement

- Vulnerable adults are expected to follow all Library policies, including the Patron Conduct Policy.
- Parents, guardians, or caregivers who fail to provide adequate supervision may be subject to temporary or permanent restriction of Library privileges.
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