

## **Library Child Safety and Vulnerable Adults Policy**

### **Unattended Children/Vulnerable Adults in the Library**

- An unattended child is a minor of any age whose behavior requires them to be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. A Vulnerable adult is a person over the age of 18-years-old who is unable or unwilling to care for themselves.
- The library does not have staff, staff training or state certification to act as a child care facility or in lieu of trained staff or family for vulnerable adults.
- The library staff is not responsible for the care of unattended children and vulnerable adults and does not assume responsibility from the parents or caregivers for providing for the welfare of persons in their care.
- Library staff is not responsible for children or vulnerable adults interacting with or leaving the library with persons who are not appropriate caregivers.
- Library staff is not responsible for any consequences of parents or caregivers forfeiting their responsibilities.
- Library staff may refer to the police those children or vulnerable adults who are left unattended in the library when a parent/guardian cannot be reached or if the behavior of the minor child or vulnerable adult falls outside that of acceptable behavior in the library.

### **Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities**

- Parents/caregivers should remain with persons in their care and be responsible for the care of those person inside the library and on the premises. This expectation is for the entire building.
- Parents/caregivers should encourage positive behavior by persons under their care while in the library.
- Parents/caregivers should cooperate with the library staff if persons in their care are disruptive or if they interfere or endanger others or cause damage to property.
- Parents or guardians with children 9 years or older who are mature enough to be left alone at the library are expected to set reasonable time limits for their children's visits to the library and provide a means of transportation home from the library by the time the library closes.
- Please refer to the Tipton Public Library Safe Child Policy.

### **Staff Guidelines**

- Staff will attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or caregiver to address concerns of lost, unattended, or scared children or vulnerable adults, or those with conduct issues.
- If the parent or responsible guardian cannot be found in the building or by phone, the proper authorities will be notified after a period of 15 minutes.
- Library staff may not take children or vulnerable adults out of the building, unless caregivers are located within sight of the facility, nor is staff permitted to transport children or vulnerable adults away from library facilities.
- For the safety of a child or vulnerable adult left unattended in the library at closing, appropriate law enforcement authorities will be contacted to take custody after a time period of 15 minutes following closing if attempts to contact the parent, legal guardian, or custodian are unsuccessful.

Reviewed/approved by the Library Board of Trustees, May 2021