VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

The Reddick Public Library District strives to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all community members and encourages vulnerable adults to use its facilities and services. While the Library is particularly concerned for the safety of vulnerable adults on Library premises, the Library does not act in loco parentis and library staff are unable to provide caregiver-type oversight and assistance to vulnerable adults. A parent, guardian, or caregiver 18 years of age or older must be responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of a vulnerable adult during library visits.

For the purposes of this policy, a vulnerable adult is an individual 18 years of age or older who is functionally, mentally, or physically unable to reasonably care for themselves in an emergency situation and, therefore, should not be left alone in the library. This includes any adult who is unable to provide for their own personal care needs and/or manage their own behavior without caregiver assistance, and/or any adult who needs help from staff beyond assistance with normal library services.

In order to provide a safe, comfortable experience for everyone in the library, the following guidelines concerning the care and behavior of vulnerable adults will be adhered to:

- All visitors to the Library are required to follow the Library’s User Conduct Policy.
- Vulnerable adults who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves must be attended and directly supervised by a responsible caregiver 18 years of age or older at all times.
- Vulnerable adults who can understand and follow the User Conduct Policy and who can care for themselves are welcomed to be in the library unattended. They should have contact information for someone who can assist them in an emergency.
- Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, or caregiver when:
  - the health or safety of a vulnerable adult is in doubt;
  - the behavior of a vulnerable adult has disturbed other library users and has caused staff to ask the individual to leave the library;
  - a vulnerable adult has not been met by a parent, guardian, or caregiver at closing time.
  - If a parent, guardian, or caregiver cannot be reached, library staff will contact police to assume responsibility.
- In the case of an immediate safety concern, staff will contact 911 immediately and then attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or caregiver.