Vulnerable Child and Dependent Adult Policy

The staff of the Wilton Public Library welcomes patrons of all ages to visit and use the library and its resources. We are concerned about the safety of all library users, including children and dependent adults. However, the library is not equipped, nor is it the Library's role to act *in loco parentis* (in place of parents). Library staff cannot supervise children or act as substitute caregivers. A parent, legal guardian, teacher, custodian, or other caregiver is responsible for monitoring the activities and managing the behavior of children or vulnerable adults during their library visits.

Definitions
- The Vulnerable Child is an unattended child of any age who is deemed by the staff to be at risk.
- A Dependent Adult is defined by Iowa Code 235B.2.4 as a person eighteen years of age or older who is unable to protect the person's own interests, or unable to adequately perform or obtain services necessary to meet essential human needs.

If a Vulnerable Child or Dependent Adult comes to the attention of library staff, the parent or guardian will be notified. If the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the police will be called. We respect the privacy of all library patrons and intervene only when a patron is at risk. In the case of an immediate safety concern, the library staff will contact 911 immediately and then attempt to contact the caregiver. Staff will stay with the person until help arrives.

If a child becomes ill while at the library, the parent/guardian will be called to come and get that child. Repeated problems will be brought to the attention of the Library Board for further consideration.

Library staff are not responsible for children interacting with or leaving the library with persons who are not their appropriate caregivers. Under no circumstances will the staff take a patron out of the library, provide transportation, or supervise patrons outside of open hours.

Adopted 08/2007; Reviewed 10/2012; Reviewed 04/2015; Revised 08/2016; Reviewed 09/2019; Revised 04/2023