

ROSE MEMORIAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VULNERABLE PERSON POLICY

INTRODUCTION

As referenced in Rose Memorial Library Association's Values Statement, we are committed to:

- Providing a welcoming space for gathering, engaging in culture and entertainment, exploring curiosity, and pursuing lifelong learning.
- Serving all members of the community with compassion, equity, kindness, and care.

DEFINITION

A "vulnerable person" is defined as a person of any age who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to provide adequate care for themselves or manage their own behaviors without assistance.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to inform parents, guardians and caretakers that the Library does not assume responsibility for vulnerable persons left unattended on library premises, and to provide the guidelines to be used by staff.

POLICY

Vulnerable persons who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves must be supervised at all times while in the library. Responsibility for their care, welfare, and behavior while on library premises rests solely with their parent, guardian, or assigned caregiver. Library staff cannot assume responsibility for their safety and comfort when they are unattended, and are not responsible for preventing vulnerable persons from leaving library grounds or monitoring/managing their behavior.

Persons of any age or ability who can understand and follow Rose Memorial Library's Patron Code of Conduct, and can provide for their own needs are welcome to remain in the library unattended.

UNATTENDED VULNERABLE PERSON

Rose Memorial Library Association respects the privacy of all library patrons, however staff will make a good-faith attempt to contact a parent, guardian or caregiver if:

- a vulnerable person's health or safety is in doubt
- if their behavior is excessively disturbing other library patrons
- if their actions knowingly and repeatedly violate and part of the Patron Code of Conduct

If a parent, guardian, or caretaker cannot be reached, the vulnerable person will be referred to the local law enforcement.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on September 27, 2023