



## Keene Public Library Policies

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<b>UNATTENDED VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY</b>	<b>Adopted: January 25, 2022</b>
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### **PURPOSE AND DEFINITION**

Keene Public Library strives to provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment for community members of all ages. The Library encourages the use of our materials and services to nurture the development of a love of reading and learning. The Library is particularly concerned for the safety of vulnerable persons in and around the Library. The Library is not responsible for their care, their supervision or for accidents or other incidents that happen to them or that result from their actions.

A vulnerable person is an individual who is mentally, emotionally, behaviorally or physically challenged to a degree that significantly impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for their own care and/or manage their own behavior without assistance. A minor 12 years old and younger may also be defined as a vulnerable person if they are unable or unwilling to care for themselves and/or manage their own behavior without assistance.

The most senior Librarian on shift is the final authority in regard to enforcing this policy.

### **POLICY**

All Library visitors are expected to follow the rules of conduct outlined in Keene Public Library's Rules of Behavior. Vulnerable persons who can understand and follow Keene Public Library's Rules of Behavior, and can provide for their own needs, are welcome to remain in the library unattended. Vulnerable persons left unattended should have contact information for a parent/guardian or caregiver in case of emergency and be able to contact them as needed. It is not the Library's responsibility to retain this information.

Vulnerable persons who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves must be attended to and have adequate supervision at all times. A parent/guardian or caregiver 18 years of age or older is responsible for monitoring activities and managing the behavior of vulnerable persons during their Library visits. The Library does not assume responsibility for vulnerable persons while they are in the building or on Library property. If a parent/guardian or caregiver feels it is unsafe for the vulnerable person to be without adult supervision at any location, the vulnerable person should not be in the Library unattended. Parents/legal guardians assume all liability for any damage to Library property done by vulnerable people in their guardianship.

Library staff are responsible for assisting all Library visitors and cannot adequately monitor unattended vulnerable persons. Library staff are not responsible for preventing vulnerable persons from leaving the Library campus, or monitoring or managing their behavior.



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Staff will attempt to contact a parent/guardian or caregiver if a vulnerable person's health or safety is in doubt, if the person is in distress, if their behavior disturbs other Library visitors, if their actions violate any of Keene Public Library's Rules of Behavior, or if the parent/guardian or caregiver is not present at the time of the Library's closing.

Staff will contact the appropriate authorities for assistance if an unattended vulnerable person is without a ride at closing, if their behavior creates a continued disturbance to Library business, or if they pose a risk to themselves, others, or to property.



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